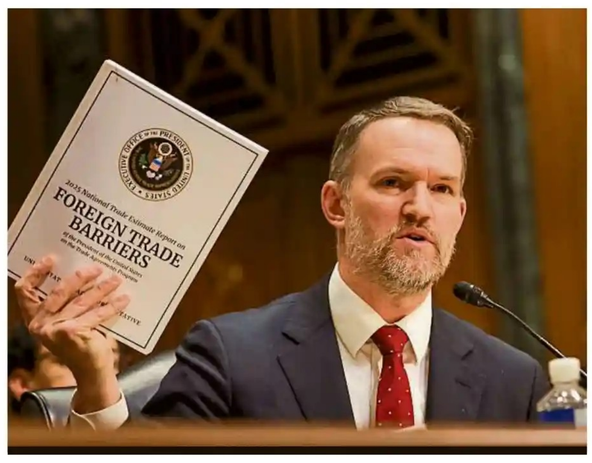
DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

In poor taste: India slams Trump's 'hellhole' jibe

India a tough nut to crack: USTR Greer

Page 12



PHYSICS WALLAH

The Student Of Karnataka Have Once Again Made The State Proud.

RANK-1

SSLC 2026

625/625

From PW KARNATAKA 8,9 & 10

BATCH STARTING AT JUST ₹2,500

PRARTHANA NAGAPPA BIRADAR PATIL

SSLC VEERA 2027 FULL SYLLABUS + MANY MORE OFFERINGS JOIN NOW!

SCAN NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US AT 07314852287 (PRESS 5)

Women free to enter mosque for namaz, Muslim law board tells SC

Says there is no curb in Islam on the matter, but it is preferable that they stay at home

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) on Thursday told the Supreme Court that there is no restriction on women entering mosques.

It said that Islam does not prohibit women from attending the mosque for namaz, though it is considered preferable that they stay at home.

Appearing before a nine-judge bench hearing matters arising from the Sabarimala reference, senior advocate MR Shamshad, representing the AIMPLB, said women are permitted to offer namaz in mosques subject to certain discipline.

He submitted that the issue had reached the bench because a writ petition was filed seeking permission for women to pray in mosques.

Since there is no sanctum sanctorum inside a mosque, nobody can insist on standing at a particular place or, for that matter, on being the first to lead the namaz, he said.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asked whether women are allowed to enter mosques.

In response, Shamshad submitted that there is consensus among all denominations of Islam that women face no restriction in entering mosques. However, there is also consensus that it is not essential for women to be part of the congregation performing namaz.

Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah said that from the very beginning, there has been no dispute over women's entry.

Faith & Practice

Counsel says women may pray in mosques subject to discipline

No sanctum sanctorum in mosques, no fixed place for namaz leadership

Men obliged to join congregation; women not mandated

Shamshad noted that the Prophet himself had said that women shouldn't be stopped from coming to the mosque, and there is clarity on this point. He added that while it is obligatory for men to be part of the congregation, it is not mandatory for women.

The counsel also submitted that for women, it is preferable to pray at home, where they receive the same religious reward, but if a woman wishes to attend the mosque, she may do so. "Except that she can't be part of the congregation?" the CJI asked.

Shamshad replied, "No, they will be part of the congregation. If they are going to the mosque, the purpose is to participate in the congregation, and that is permitted."

"So, it is not mandated for them to attend a congregation?" Justice Nagarathna asked.

Shamshad said that it is "not preferable" for women to attend the congregation in the mosque.

Justice Amanullah observed, "So the reason was that if everybody goes from the house, who looks after the children?"

Shamshad contended that the doctrine of essential religious practice (ERP) has been wrongly applied by the courts in the context of Islam.

He argued before the SC that Islam is a thoroughly written religion, with elaborate detailing on dos and don'ts. The counsel submitted that while certain acts are strictly categorised as forbidden, others are prescribed as mandatory, and some are recommended as desirable.

'Knowledge is welcome, but not from WhatsApp University'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday said it respected the perspectives of eminent persons and jurists but cautioned against information circulating through "WhatsApp University", which cannot be treated as credible.

A nine-judge Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant made the observations while hearing petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala.

Senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, representing the head of the Dawoodi Bohra community, referred to an article written by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on judicial restraint in matters of religious relief.

CJI Kant said, "We respect all eminent persons, jurists, etc., but personal opinion is personal opinion." Kaul said if knowledge comes from any source, any country, or any university, it should be welcomed.

In a lighter vein, Justice BV Nagarathna said, "But not from WhatsApp University."

Kaul said he was not getting into that debate, as he was not concerned with which university is good or bad. He emphasised that the point is that wherever knowledge and information come from, they must be accepted.

Centre confirms one Indian seafarer in Iranian custody

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Thursday confirmed that at least one Indian seafarer was among the crew of a vessel taken into custody by Iranian forces near the Strait of Hormuz.

"Two of the three foreign-flagged commercial vessels fired upon by Iran on Wednesday had a total of 22 Indian seafarers on board. All Indian seafarers aboard these vessels are safe," Mukesh Mangal, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, told the media here.

Iran captured two container ships — MSC Francesca and Epaminondas — while a third vessel, Euphoria, was fired upon.

It was said that Iranian forces used crewed gunboats from the IRGC Navy. Masked gunmen forcefully boarded ships and captured them. Ship-tracking data later showed the seized vessels were stationary near the Iranian coast.

Tehran described this as tit for tat as retaliation to a US naval blockade of Iranian ports and the capture of Iranian-flagged ships.

The Liberian-flagged container ship Epaminondas, which was signalling Mundra port in Gujarat as its next destination, had one Indian seafarer among its 21 crew members, mostly Ukrainians and Filipinos. The seafarer is safe.

SC stays murder conviction, life sentence of Ajit Jogi's son

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a big relief to Amit Jogi, the son of former Chhattisgarh chief minister Ajit Jogi, the Supreme Court on Thursday stayed his conviction and life sentence in the 2003 murder case of NCP leader Ram Avtar Jaggi.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and Vijay Bishnoi questioned the validity of the Chhattisgarh High Court's order, passed without hearing the appellant-accused.

"We stay the conviction and life sentence of the appellant (Amit Jogi)," the bench said, upon hearing the counsel for the appellant.

Jogi challenged his conviction as per the HC's April 2 order, which reversed his 2007 acquittal and sentenced him to life imprisonment in the case.

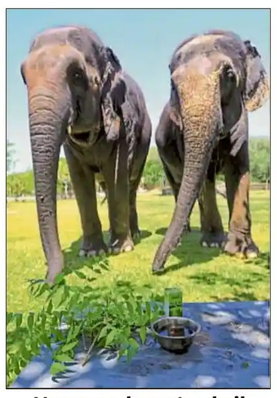
During the hearing, the apex court bench questioned the HC's passing of judgment without Jogi being heard. "What kind of judgment, conviction, and sentence before hearing?" the bench observed.

In the case, the trial court in 2007 sentenced 28 accused persons to life imprisonment but acquitted Amit Jogi for lack of evidence.

However, the HC had set aside the judgment and held him guilty, directing him to surrender within three weeks.

The HC overturned Jogi's acquittal and convicted him on an appeal moved by the CBI.

As per the prosecution's case, the NCP leader was shot in 2003 while travelling in his car.



Neem and mustard oil are kept near elephants for application as part of routine care during the summer season at Elephant Village, in Jaipur on Thursday. PTI

ED: Mamata used state machinery to hinder probe

In SC, agency alleges law and order breakdown in Bengal

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

I-PAC probe

ED alleges Mamata obstructed I-PAC coal probe

Solicitor General Mehta invokes Article 32 for ED officers	Rule of law part of fundamental rights, says ED

DGP accused of acting as Mamata's 'personal PSO'

Officers victims of 'wrongful confinement and theft'

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday told the Supreme Court that there was a "complete breakdown of law and order in West Bengal", alleging that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had used the state machinery to obstruct its probe into the I-PAC office in Kolkata in connection with the Rs 2,700-crore coal smuggling case.

Making his submission before a bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and NV Anjaria, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the ED, defended the maintainability of petitions filed under Article 32 of the Constitution by the agency and its officers against Mamata and others over the lodging of a CBI FIR.

He said that the "rule of law" is part of the fundamental right to equality, and when it is violated, the agency in a representative capacity — and its officers in both personal and official capacities — can approach the apex court to seek relief.

The SC was hearing a plea filed by the ED alleging obstruction by Mamata during the raid at the I-PAC premises.

Mehta claimed that the case involved illegal coal smuggling. He submitted that the ED and its officers — who, as citizens of India, are discharging statutory functions — are seeking protection of their fundamental rights under Article 32.

Mehta referred to the 2019 incident involving former police commissioner Rajeev Kumar, now a TMC Rajya Sabha MP, to argue that West Bengal has a history of "arresting" federal officers to stall probes.

He further criticised the Director General of Police, noting that while his presence at the site was justified in affidavits as "protection for a Z-category protectee", in reality, he acted as a "personal PSO" for the chief minister.

Additional Solicitor General Raju, appearing for an ED officer, added that "ex-facie bogus FIRs" had been registered against officials of the anti-money laundering agency.

He said that ED officers were victims of "wrongful confinement and theft" and could not expect a fair investigation from the West Bengal Police, who report to the very person accused of obstruction. He said the chief minister is also the home minister of the state, and ED officers cannot expect a fair and impartial investigation.

The SC, however, observed that there was a problem with entertaining such petitions on behalf of state governments.

"This court will be flooded with Article 32 petitions — not by individuals, but by different state governments. As a court, shall we discourage or shall we encourage this?" the bench asked.

Uninformed and in poor taste: India slams Trump's 'hellhole' jibe

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on Thursday described as "uninformed" and "inappropriate" a social media repost by US President Donald Trump that referred to India and some other countries as "hellholes" in the context of immigration.

India's response came after a controversy was created by Trump reposting comments by American radio show host Michael Savage that contained derogatory references to India and China.

The US embassy sought to control the damage caused by the remarks as it put out a message that Trump believes India is a "great" country led by a "good friend of mine".

"We have seen the comments, as also the subsequent statement issued by the US embassy in response," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"The remarks are obviously uninformed, inappropriate and in poor taste. They certainly do not reflect the reality of the India-US relationship, which has long been based on mutual respect and shared interests," he said.

Donald Trump

Earlier, the spokesperson at the US embassy said: "The President has said, 'India is a great country with a very good friend of mine at the top'."

The embassy spokesperson, however, did not specify where and when Trump made the remarks that India is a great country.

Trump had shared a purported four-page transcript of the podcaster in which he said, "A baby comes here becomes an instant citizen, and then they bring the entire family in from China or India or some other hellhole on the planet..."

Kharge questions Modi's silence

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains "absolutely mum" on the "ridiculous utterances" of US President Donald Trump, who referred to India as a "hell hole", reports DHNS from New Delhi.

Mallikarjun Kharge

In a post on 'X', Kharge said he "sincerely hopes" that the Prime Minister "gets some time to react to this intimidation and indignation of 140 crore Indians" in the midst of a high-voltage election campaign.

"Modi-ji's dear friend, 'Namaste Trump' has shared a note abusing India and using an extremely disparaging term. Modi-ji remains absolutely mum on these ridiculous utterances. The MEA spokesperson said 'That is where I leave it'. Narendra Modi-ji, what are you scared of?" he said.

"Indians have played a vital role in America's success. What is stopping us from raising this at the highest levels of the American government? From the skewed Indo-US Trade deal framework to Trump's earlier claims on mediating to stop the war during Operation Sindoor, from grinning in front of Trump when he said "BRICS is dead" to the US levying 50% tariffs on India — at every step Modi-ji has mortgaged India's interests!" he added.

8 killed as vehicle plunges into gorge in U'khand's Tehri

NEW TEHRI, PTI: Eight people died and two others injured when a utility pickup vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a 300-metre deep gorge in Tehri district on Thursday, officials said.

The accident occurred around 2.15 pm on the Chamba-Koti Colony road.

The victims, all of them from Thyoldhar village, were returning home from a funeral when the driver lost control of the vehicle, Tehri District Magistrate Nitika Khandelwal said. There were around 10 people on board at the time of the accident.

The accident was reported to the police, after which two ambulances and rescue teams were immediately dispatched to the spot.

The police and State Disaster Response Force teams recovered eight bodies and took the injured to a nearby hospital.

The victims were returning after performing last rites of Sampat Lal in Haridwar.

Security personnel patrol near a burnt motorcycle following tension in the Kanglatongbi area of Imphal West district of Manipur, on Thursday. Supporters of a shutdown called by the United Naga Council allegedly held two teenagers from the Kuki community for violating the bandh and set ablaze the motorcycle they were riding. PTI

Six illegal bunkers destroyed in Kangpokpi

IMPHAL, PTI: Six illegal bunkers were destroyed in Manipur's Kangpokpi district, police said on Thursday.

Two illegal bunkers were destroyed at Tingpibung village, three bunkers were demolished at Lungter Hill, and one bunker in Leplen village.

Security forces seized 12 empty cases of 7.62 mm ammunition from the sites.

In another operation, security forces recovered arms and explosives from near the India-Myanmar border in Tengnoual district, officials said.

An AK-47 rifle with a magazine, a carbine with a magazine, and four IEDs were recovered, they said.

Meanwhile, Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla called upon people to uphold values such as integrity in public life, communal harmony, respect for the rule of law and commitment to the welfare of all citizens as true tributes to the martyrs. Bhalla was speaking at the annual Khongjom Day celebrations at the Khongjom War Memorial in Thoubal district.

Cong counters EC notice to Kharge with Modi, Shah statements

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Insisting that its chief Mallikarjun Kharge did not violate the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) as he clarified his "terrorist" remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Congress on Thursday accused the Election Commission (EC) of ignoring violations by Modi himself — as well as Union Home Minister Amit Shah — while being "ever-vigilant of slights" of the Opposition.

Writing to the EC, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said if the poll panel considered that Modi did not violate the MCC with his address to the nation and Shah by promising monetary benefits to women if the BJP won in Bengal, then Kharge could not be considered to have violated the poll code.

Filing a "summary" response, Ramesh objected to Kharge being given just 24 hours — not sufficient time — to respond, and demanded a week to submit a detailed reply.

He also questioned the "casual manner" in which the EC was seeking explanations on the basis of the ruling BJP's version of events, as he cited Kharge receiving two notices on the subject without one being withdrawn.

Govt failed to ensure fuel and fertiliser security: Kharge

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday said the Modi government has scored a "double 'F' (fail)" in ensuring fuel and fertiliser security and tried to deflect its failures and Epstein file allegations through "delimitation theatrics".

He said PM Narendra Modi should heed his own 'Margadarshak Mandal' member Murli Manohar Joshi, who recently said India should not use the rhetoric of 'vishwaguru' anymore.

In a post on X, Kharge said, "Modi government tried to deflect its failures and serious Epstein file allegations through delimitation theatrics, but India saw through the charade. The BJP has scored a double 'F' (fail) in ensuring fuel and fertiliser security for the nation."

He said production was down, import diversification had failed and Indian ships in the Strait of Hormuz were unable to secure safe passage.

TRAVEL EASE

France lifts airport transit visa requirement for Indians: MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI

Indians transiting through France exclusively by air will no longer require a transit visa, as the French government has operationalised an agreement to remove such a requirement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal made the announcement at his weekly media briefing here, saying India welcomes the move.

Later in a statement, the MEA said the visa-free transit for Indian nationals transiting through the European territory of France has now been operationalised by the French government. The decision showcases deep commitment by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron to strengthen bilateral relations.

Jaiswal said the decision reflects the enduring partnership between India and France, elevated to the level of a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' during the recent visit of President Macron to India.

"The government of France has now operationalised this agreement, and Indian nationals transiting through mainland France exclusively by air will no longer need a transit visa, with effect from 10th April, 2026. As you may recall, the removal of the requirement of transit visas for Indian passport holders was agreed between the prime minister and President Macron during their meeting in Mumbai in February this year," Jaiswal said.

Azhar's Cabinet future hinges on governor's nod

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Former Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin's future as a minister in Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's Cabinet hangs in the balance, with the constitutional deadline approaching fast.

Azharuddin was sworn in as a state minister on October 31, 2025. But he has not been a member of the State Legislature.

Under constitutional provisions, a non-legislator appointed to the Cabinet must secure a seat in either the House of Parliament or the State Legislature within six consecutive months, a deadline that will expire for Azharuddin on April 30. His continuation as a minister depends on whether Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla approves the Cabinet's recommendation to nominate him to the Legislative Council under the governor's quota.

The matter gained fresh urgency after Revanth Reddy visited Lok Bhavan recently, with the nominations of Azharuddin and Prof. M. Kodandaram for another MLC seat topping his agenda.

The Cabinet had originally recommended both names in August 2025. Following his induction, Azharuddin was assigned the portfolios of Minorities Welfare and Public Enterprises.

The recommendation file was with the previous governor, Jishnu Dev Varma, before he was replaced by Shiv Pratap Shukla in March 2026, leaving the matter unresolved.

Mohammad Azharuddin

Sources in the government and the Congress party said Revanth Reddy is confident that the governor will endorse the Cabinet's recommendation.

Govt's Plan B

Should the governor decline to act, the government's contingency options are — one, asking an incumbent MLC elected under the MLAs' quota to resign, paving the way for Azharuddin to contest that seat; two, Azharuddin could be asked to resign from the Cabinet and be re-sworn in shortly after effectively resetting the six-month clock and buying time to resolve the matter.

Azhar remains the only minority representative in the Revanth Reddy Cabinet. If Azharuddin is neither elected nor nominated by April 30, he will be constitutionally required to vacate his ministerial post.

Bengaluru Friday, April 24, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 113 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

CSK lord over MI

Samson slams ton in 103-run win

Page 15

State

Rs 500 bet: High Court stays registration of FIR against HM P.4

Business P.13

No proposal to increase petrol or diesel prices: Govt

Nation

Pooram fireworks called off after blast P.10

World

India-UK lifescienes pact signed P.12

94.1% students pass SSLC exams in record results

Minister cites govt initiatives, denies grace marks given

BENGALURU, DHNS

The SSLC examination-1 results announced on Thursday notched the highest ever pass percentage of 94.1 this year as against the 80.04% recorded for all three exams last year.

According to data shared by the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB), a total of 7,70,209 regular school students appeared for the exams of whom 7,24,794 managed to pass.

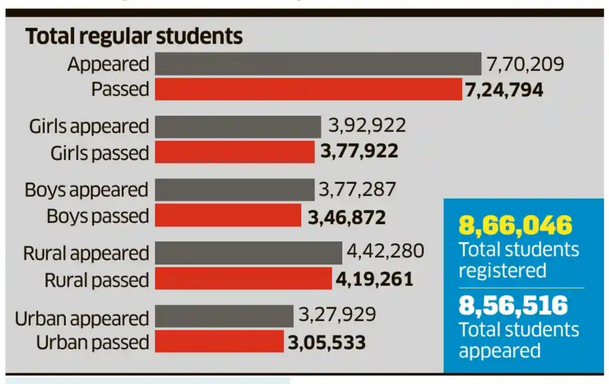
Including repeaters and private candidates, the number of students who appeared was 8,56,516 of whom 7,60,002 cleared the exams, making up 88.73% passes as against the 74.74% reported last year.

Releasing the results on Thursday, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa attributed the high pass percentage to initiatives taken by the department.

These steps, according to the 'action taken report' that the minister released, include appointing guest teachers on time, completing the syllabus before December and conducting revision classes from January.

He said that holding special classes, conducting three state-level preparatories, creating awareness among children, helping them stay away from social media, making lesson-based assessments and re-admitting failed students helped the department secure the historical results.

Minister Madhu Bangarappa announcing the SSLC results in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN



No third exam

Considering the high percentage of passes this year, the department of School Education and Literacy has decided not to conduct a third examination. The second examination will be held between May 18 and 25 for those who wish to improve their marks and for those who have failed in the exams.

When asked if grace marks had contributed to the high pass percentage, Madhu Bangarappa denied it and said, "No grace marks have been given, not even for the third language."

The minister congratulated the students for this success and also thanked parents, teachers, officials and legislators who supported the department's efforts in bringing out these results. "I thank the parents and students who understood their responsibility after attending the parent-teacher meeting and realised the importance of learning and extended their support and helped the students achieve these results," he said.

▸ SSLC exams, Page 7

Contractor in HC: IAS officer said 15% cut or no deal

Says BSWML chief told him demand was from higher ups

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

A contractor who bid for Bengaluru's garbage tender has approached the High Court of Karnataka alleging a demand of bribe by the Chief Executive Officer of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd, Karee Gowda, for himself and on behalf of Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, and the state government.

The petitioner, S N Balasubramaniam, who was declared the lowest bidder (L1 bidder) for the package in CV Raman Nagar in the July 2025 tender notification, has alleged that Karee Gowda, an IAS officer, demanded 15% of the price bid quoted by him for a period of seven years.

The petitioner stated that on March 10, Karee Gowda informed him that unless the "formalities and obligations" are fulfilled and complied with, the tender would not be finalised.

According to the petitioner, Karee Gowda claimed that these "formalities and obligations" are direct instructions from higher ups in the government and it is for this precise reason that he had been posted.

Tender trouble

- Petitioner in HC says BSWML chief told him bribe would be split between board members, addl chief secretary and govt
- Claims he was told that unless he complied with the demands, tender will not be finalised
- Advocate General terms the allegations as baseless, says on the day alleged bribe was demanded, BSWML chief was in Delhi

When the petitioner insisted on details, Karee Gowda explained to the petitioner that of the 15%, the board members would get 3%, the Additional Chief Secretary and his department (UDD) would get 3% and the government would get 9%, the petition stated.

The petitioner further submitted that on March 11, he had filed a complaint to the Chief Secretary but to no avail. On March 25, a new tender notification was issued.

On Thursday, when the matter came up before the bench presided over by Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum, Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty said the allegations were baseless. The AG filed a memo stating that on March 10, the day on which the alleged demand of bribe was made, Karee Gowda was in Delhi. The AG produced air tickets and boarding passes as evidence to this effect.

On the other hand, P Prasanna Kumar, counsel for the petitioner, submitted that the petitioner is ready to file an affidavit in support of the claim/allegations made in the petition. Considering the submissions, Justice Magadum adjourned the hearing to Friday. The petitioner has sought a direction for the registration of an FIR and court-monitored probe on his allegations or alternatively, for constitution of an SIT to probe the allegations.

▸ Contractor, Page 7

Kodagu sexual assault case: Homestay licence revoked

MADIKERI, DHNS: Days after the sexual assault of an American tourist at a homestay in Kutta, Kodagu Deputy Commissioner and District Tourism Development Committee Chairman S J Somashekar issued an order to cancel the licence of the homestay.

The licence of the homestay, with validity up to 2029, was issued in the name of P A Ponnappa.

The district administration has also issued strict instructions stating that all homestays in the district must mandatorily adhere to tourist safety regulations.

The sexual assault on the foreign tourist sparked widespread outrage about employing people from other sates in homestays and resorts.

"Workers from other states are employed in resorts, hotels, and homestays. Many owners, without verifying their background, hire people from other states as they agree to work for lower wages," said Kodagu Rakshana Vedike district president Achandeera Pavan Pemmaya.

"How many more such incidents should occur before the owners wake up," he added.

Kodagu District Superintendent of Police R N Bindumani said clear instructions are given in every meeting to collect the details of the workers.

"But these instructions are not being followed," the SP said, adding that a meeting with the Tourism Department will be convened soon and strict warnings will be issued to all homestay owners.

Meanwhile, the police refused to disclose the whereabouts of the American tourist.

Bengal, TN polls register highest turnout since Independence

CHENNAI/KOLKATA, DHNS

The Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (first phase) on Thursday witnessed a record turnout, with the Election Commission stating that the polling percentages are highest since the Independence.

While Tamil Nadu recorded a massive 85.11% turnout to elect the 17th Assembly, the first phase of polling in West Bengal saw at least 91.78% of the 3.60 crore voters exercising their franchise in 152 constituencies, although lakhs deleted from the electoral rolls over the past few months were barred from participating in the festival of democracy.

In absolute numbers, however, the turnout in Tamil Nadu was not truly unprecedented, as only an additional 22 lakh people voted in this election as compared to 2021. The state usually records an addition of 30 lakh votes every Assembly election. The increase in percentage could be attributed to the deletion of over 70 lakh voters in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

WEST BENGAL
152 constituencies (1st phase) — 91.78% Turnout

TAMIL NADU
234 constituencies — 85.11% Turnout

People wait in queues at a polling station in Chennai on Thursday. PTI

About 4.90 crore voters are believed to have exercised their franchise this year. Karur district topped with 92.54%, followed by Salem (90.72%), Dharmapuri (90.14%), Erode (90.10%), and Namakkal (90.0%). Tenkasi, Madurai, and Tirunelveli polled much less.

The lowest turnout was in Sivaganga at 76.58%, while Chennai threw a surprise at 83.72%, a historic percentage for the city, which generally records low turnout.

Officials said the polling percentage registered on Thursday is subject to change.

In West Bengal, over 92% of the 1.75 crore women and over 90% of 1.84 crore men cast votes in the constituencies spread over 16 districts, which went to the polls in the first phase.

Trump orders sinking of Iran mine-layers

TEHRAN, AGENCIES: President Donald Trump on Thursday ordered the US Navy to destroy any Iranian boat caught laying mines in the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump's announcement came after the US fleet boarded a vessel transporting oil from Iran and after a senior Iranian official said Tehran had secured its first proceeds from tolls imposed on shipping through the strait.

"I have ordered the US Navy to shoot and kill any boat, small boats though they may be, that is putting mines in the waters of the Strait of Hormuz," Trump posted.

Details on Page 12

Rs 51k-cr social damages from booze: Panel moots rehab fund

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Highlighting the high social cost of alcohol consumption, a state-appointed committee headed by K P Krishnan, IAS (Retired), has proposed a law to earmark a portion of excise revenue specifically for public health and rehabilitation.

The Karnataka State Excise Reforms 2026 report reveals that while only 11% of the state's population consumes alcohol, the habit costs Karnataka approximately Rs 51,000 crore annually in social damages.

This figure represents roughly 2% of the state's Gross Domestic Product.

This figure reflects the economic and social impact of alcohol misuse, including health issues, accidents, lost productivity, and familial hardship, which often outweigh the revenue gains from excise duty.

To mitigate this, the panel recommends legally separating a share of excise earnings into a Social Cost Mitigation Fund.

The report highlights that women whose husbands drink frequently report 73.4% physical or sexual violence, compared to 24.6% in non-drinking households.

Drunk driving was linked to over 4,200 deaths in India in 2022, with the report emphasising that victims are often third parties.

Where the money will go

- **Addiction treatment** — Setting up and scaling specialised rehabilitation and de-addiction centres across the state
- **Public health initiatives** — Funding medical research and healthcare services for alcohol-related liver and heart diseases
- **Road safety** — Investing in programmes to curb drunk driving and improving emergency response to road accidents

▸ Rehabilitation, Page 7

Teen gives birth in toilet, slits baby's throat

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a shocking incident, a teenager allegedly killed her baby immediately after a premature birth inside the toilet of a Foxconn facility, Apple's primary contract manufacturer, on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

The male baby's body was found around 9 am on Wednesday in a clogged female toilet on the second floor of the A41 building at the Foxconn factory near Doddagollahalli, Devanahalli, the police said.

Police were alerted after the body was found by the housekeeping staff who went to check the blockage of the toilet.

▸ Baby killed, Page 3B

RECOVERY MODE

IT firms head for 'selective hiring' amid global headwinds

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

IT firms are adopting a "strategic approach" to hiring amid uncertainty and cost pressures, according to hiring experts, who feel that in FY27, the industry will see a gradual but selective recovery, not a return to mass hiring.

As per Quess reports, hiring is expected to grow 12-15%, though the year has started cautiously with demand already down about 8% in early FY27.

"The focus will clearly shift to skill-based hiring, with fewer but higher-value roles. Growth will be driven by GCC expansion, AI platform build outs, and cybersecurity investments, with GCCs expected to add 1.4-1.8 lakh new roles," Kapil Joshi, CEO of IT Staffing, Quess Corp, said.

Quess reports also indicate that contract hiring is set to rise, with 25% of the GCC workforce becoming flexible today and expected to reach 30% by 2030.

At the same time, Tier-2 cities are contributing 10-12% of overall hiring, likely increasing to 15% by 2030. Overall, FY27 will be defined by "precision hiring" — slower, more targeted, and closely aligned to business demand, Joshi said.

> Routine roles, including fresher hiring, may continue to face pressure. Companies are prioritising skill-based and project-linked hiring, closely tied to deal flow and client spending. Overall, FY27 may see cautious recovery, led more by specialised demand than broad-based expansion.
>
> **SACHIN ALUG,** CEO, NLB Services

Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services, said that FY27 is likely to be a year of selective hiring rather than large-scale volume hiring.

"Demand for roles such as AI engineers, cybersecurity experts, digital engineers and cloud professionals is expected to remain stronger. However, routine roles, including fresher hiring, may continue to face pressure. Companies are prioritising skill-based and project-linked hiring, closely tied to deal flow and client spending. Overall, FY27 may see cautious recovery, led more by specialised demand than broad-based expansion," he said.

As the India Decoding Jobs Report 2026 highlights, hiring intent is still projected to grow by around 7% in FY27, only the demand is shifting toward new, specialised skill sets.

▸ IT hiring, Page 7

Infosys Q4 net profit rises 21%

Infosys has posted a 20.87% increase in its consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 2026, at Rs 8,501 crore. This was largely in line with analysts' expectations. The company had posted Rs 7,033 crore net profit in the year-ago period.

Details on Page 13

CUB
TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

CITY UNION BANK
proudly announces the opening of its

981st Branch

Ground Floor,
BBMP Katha No.783/883/1022,
Ward No.08,
SAHAKAR NAGAR - 560 092,
Bengaluru, Karnataka.

on Friday, 24th April, 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Soliciting your presence and continued patronage
The Chairman, Managing Director & CEO, Board of Directors

Six more new branches are being inaugurated today at
Mathura, Shivpur-Varanasi - Uttar Pradesh,
South Veeravanallur - Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, Agraharasamakulam - Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu & Barasat, Salt Lake - West Bengal.

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904 CITY UNION BANK

Their discount, our loss: Who really pays the price?

Eateries flag hidden discounts by food delivery platforms

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Restaurants in the city are reporting mounting losses from hidden discounts applied by food aggregator platforms Swiggy and Zomato without prior approval, adding to a growing list of grievances against the two platforms.

Nikhil Agarwal, owner of Bamey's, walked into his Koramangala restaurant on Tuesday to find a discount of Rs 80 being applied on Swiggy orders without his knowledge.

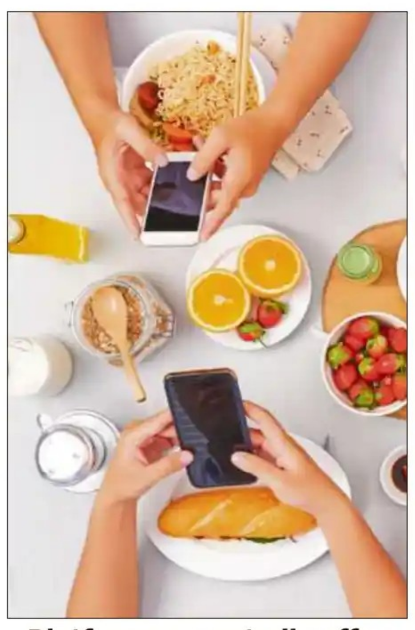
"I was livid when I saw the bill plastered on top of the food order. I had not approved this discount. But this has become way too common. Each time, I have to log onto the app and manually switch off the order," he said. He said he faced a similar problem with Zomato, where a 40% discount was applied on online orders multiple times over six months.

The duopoly makes it harder to resolve the problem.

"If you agree to run a promotional offer on Zomato, Swiggy will immediately run either the same or a higher value offer without my approval. When I ask them to take it down, they will ask me to first pull down the offer on the competitor's platform. We get stuck in a never-ending cycle," he said.

Ananth Narayan, Bengaluru Chapter Head of the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI), said similar complaints had been pouring in from across the city.

"Our members are consistently reporting serious issues around non-transparent and unilateral practices by food delivery platforms. These include auto-applied discounts and ad spends without consent, rising commissions, unexplained deductions, and delayed or missing payments. The industry urgently needs transparency, consent-based billing, and a fair, accountable ecosystem to ensure long-term sustainability for restaurant partners," Narayan said.



Platforms reportedly offer dine-in discounts without owners' approval.

The NRAI is in active dialogue with platform leadership in Bengaluru, he added.

Mounting losses

Managing Partner of the NH8 chain Amit Sharma faced a loss of Rs 13 lakh due to auto-applied discounts on Swiggy across his restaurants and cloud kitchens.

"We started facing issues with auto-applied discounts in 2023-2024. That is when we realised losses on our online orders were mounting because of these hidden discounts. We had to go back and forth with Swiggy for almost two years to get the money back. Only in March 2026 did they repay Rs 10 lakh," he said.

Sharma has since taken all his businesses off Swiggy.

Restaurant owners also say platforms make it nearly impossible to raise complaints efficiently.

"It is an endlessly long ordeal, and many restaurants give up the fight. For each platform, we have a point of contact, but the platform routinely changes the contact without informing the restaurant," said Nikhil Shetty, who runs three food businesses in the city, including Hunan Square in Electronics City.

Owners reported similar concerns with dine-in offers, where platforms promoted discounts on bills without prior approval.

Swiggy and Zomato have denied to comment.

> **NIKHIL AGARWAL,**
> Owner of Bamey's
>
> "If you agree to run a promotional offer on Zomato, Swiggy will immediately run either the same or a higher value offer without my approval. When I ask them to take it down, they will ask me to first pull down the offer on the competitor's platform. We get stuck in a never-ending cycle.

CITYSCAPE

Bengaluru's first double-decker flyover, connecting HSR Layout 5th Main with Jayanagar (Ragigudda), opens to vehicles on a trial basis on Thursday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Biocon pushes staff to use bus and metro

Launches a corporate commute initiative to simplify daily travel

BENGALURU, DHNS

Biopharmaceutical firm Biocon launched a corporate commute initiative on Thursday, aimed at shifting employees towards public transport by integrating metro and bus services through a single digital platform.

The programme, unveiled by Biocon Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, is part of the Station Access and Mobility Program (STAMP) led by Toyota Mobility Foundation and WRI India.

Termed 'Corporate Commute Nudge', the initiative uses the Tummoc app to help employees plan, track and pay for end-to-end journeys across public transport systems, including first- and last-mile connectivity.

The Biocon chief committed to supporting public transport at her company through the initiative and appreciated the collaboration among all agencies.

"Since the opening of the Yellow Line, employees at Biocon have shared that just by cutting down on travel time, they have noticed a significant improvement in their quality of life. Any city like ours, which is challenged with growth and mobility, has to seek unique solutions," Kiran said.

The programme was unveiled by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson of Biocon. DH PHOTO

Community survey

Professor Ashish Verma of the Indian Institute of Science shared insights at the launch from a community survey conducted by IISc and Biocon on Namma Metro's Yellow Line, examining how the corridor is likely to affect quality of life.

Based on 600 baseline responses and a follow-up after six months, the study covers travel habits, physical activity, pollution exposure, and mental well-being.

The findings show strong interest in the metro, with 83% of respondents willing to shift, even though most currently depend on private vehicles.

Low physical activity among commuters is a key concern, with 58% reporting insufficient activity. The 18 to 29 age group is the most affected, with only 29% meeting minimum activity levels. Metro use adds 50 to 75 minutes of walking a week, helping improve overall health.

Metro commuters face the least heat stress and air pollution compared to two-wheeler users or pedestrians. High fares, weak last-mile connectivity and poor pedestrian access remain key hurdles.

She also said she had recently spoken to Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, about the deteriorating condition of Hosur Road, and that he had assured improvements to the road infrastructure.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said the Yellow Line had contributed to a reduction in vehicles on roads and that similar interventions from large-scale corporations could further ease congestion.

Man, 45, visits apartment as prospective buyer, jumps from 17th floor

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 45-year-old man allegedly died by suicide after jumping from the 17th floor of an under-construction apartment complex in Sampigehalli on Wednesday night, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Vivekananda, who lived with his wife and children.

According to police, Vivekananda visited the apartment near a tech park, claiming he wanted to check a flat for purchase. He went upstairs on this pretext and jumped from the 17th floor.

Sampigehalli police rushed to the spot and shifted the body for post-mortem.

Preliminary investigation suggests that he was under severe financial stress. Police said he had allegedly taken loans from private financiers and incurred losses in stock market trading.

While harassment by moneylenders is suspected to have driven him to the extreme step, police have not registered a case as his family members are yet to file a complaint.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104)

Posing as BSNL staffers, trio steal cables

BENGALURU, DHNS

Yeshwantpur police have arrested three people who posed as BSNL staff and stole modules and copper cables.

Police recovered stolen goods worth an estimated Rs 7 lakh from the suspects.

The complainant told police on April 19 that unidentified persons had stolen 2,160 modules and 66 metres of copper cable belonging to BSNL, worth Rs 2.39 lakh, between April 17 and 19.

A theft case was registered, and the three suspects were arrested at Mathikere.

"Upon interrogation, the suspects confessed that they are from other states and used to operate both during the day and night using a car. They wore uniforms and helmets similar to BSNL staff and targeted roadside BSNL infrastructure in areas such as Mathikere, Yeshwantpur, Malleswaram, and Sadashivanagar in Bengaluru city," the police said in a statement.

The suspects also confessed to damaging iron pillars installed for telephone, internet and LAN connections and stealing 4,140 modules and 60 metres of copper cable.

Police found that the trio were transporting the stolen goods in a car to the railway station for sale, and that another accomplice remained at large.

The suspects were produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody.

10K run: Namma Metro services to start early this Sunday

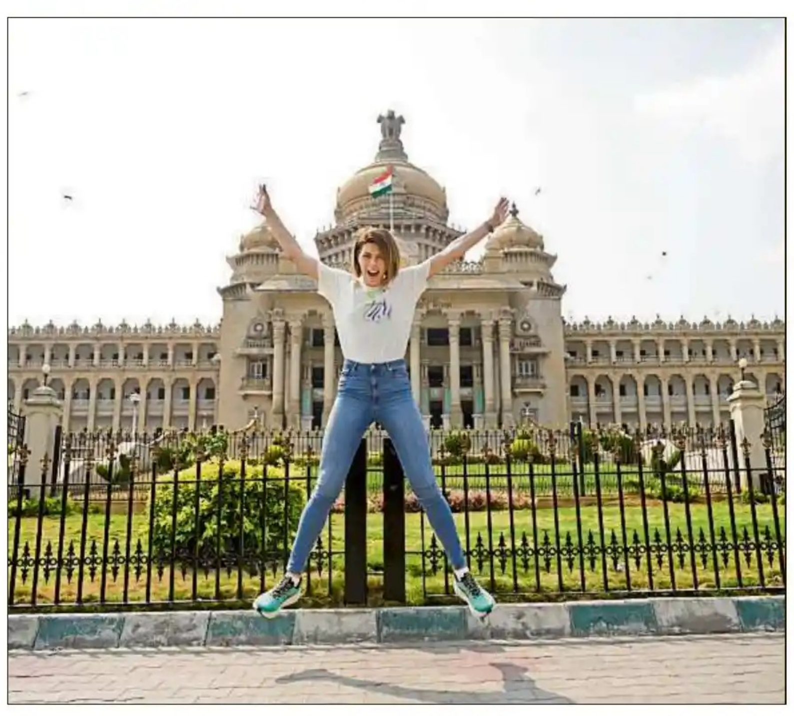
BENGALURU, DHNS

Metro train services will begin early this Sunday to facilitate public movement for the TCS World 10K Bengaluru.

The run is scheduled to start from Manekshaw Parade Ground.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced that train services will commence from Bommasandra at 3 am, Madavara at 3.20 am, Whitefield (Kadugodi) and Silk Institute at 3.30 am, and Challaghatta at 3.35 am.

During the first hour, trains will operate at a frequency of 15 minutes. The frequency will then be reduced to 30 minutes until 7 am. After 7 am, services will run as per the regular timetable, the BMRCL said.



Croatian star Blanka Vlasic, International Event Ambassador of the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026, captures a moment outside the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

Businessman blackmailed for Rs 1.5 crore by Insta influencer

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 31-year-old businessman from Jayanagar has filed an extortion case against a social media influencer, who allegedly blackmailed him with private videos, demanding Rs 1.5 crore.

The complainant came in contact with the accused, Sadhana Shetty, while promoting his make-up clinic on social media in 2024.

Their online interaction developed into a relationship. During this period, Sadhana allegedly recorded private photos and videos of the businessman without his knowledge.

Sadhana, a native of Mangaluru, had earlier extorted around Rs 10 lakh from him, besides taking a gold ring, a chain and a mobile phone worth Rs 1.4 lakh. She demanded Rs 1.5 crore, threatening to share the private videos with his wife, if he failed to pay. When he stopped responding to her threats, she allegedly shared the videos with his wife, disturbing his family life.

The businessman approached Jayanagar police and lodged a complaint. An FIR was registered and the accused was interrogated.

He alleged that Sadhana had stored the videos on a pen drive and handed it over to her mother Pushpa and two friends, Bhuvan and Girish, as backup.

Sanitary charge hike not new decision, was implemented last year: BWSSB

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) on Thursday defended the revised sanitary charges for non-domestic users, stating that the changes had already come into effect last year.

Responding to media reports highlighting concerns from industries over "inflating water bills", the water board said sanitary charges vary based on building size and usage categories.

According to the BWSSB, industrial premises with built-up areas exceeding 5,000 sqm are subject to sanitary charges of Rs 5,000 per month.

The clarification comes amid pushback from industry bodies, which argue that the steep hike has significantly increased operational costs.

The BWSSB, however, maintained that the revision is part of a broader tariff overhaul approved last year.

The board also noted that no revision had been undertaken in over 11 years, despite a substantial rise in electricity costs, infrastructure investments, and overall operational expenses.

IISc unit, Japanese firm ink deal to fix urban data gaps with AI, open standards

BENGALURU, DHNS: ONESTRUCTION Inc, a Japan-based construction technology company, and DataKaveri Systems, the commercial arm of IISc Bengaluru's Centre of Data for Public Good, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on urban and built environment data exchange.

The partnership will combine the capabilities of both entities to support urban planners with high-quality, accessible and interoperable data for better decision-making.

Construction and infrastructure data remains among the least digitised and most fragmented datasets in urban environments globally.

While openBIM standards such as IFC (Industry Foundation Classes) have advanced data interoperability within construction project lifecycles, the infrastructure to govern, exchange and use that data at the city and national scale has remained underdeveloped.

Much of this data, including floor plans, utility layouts and asset histories, is lost or inaccessible once a project closes.

The MoU was signed at IISc Bengaluru in the presence of representatives from Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and India's Ministry of External Affairs, on the sidelines of the inaugural Japan-India AI Strategic Dialogue, a bilateral initiative to advance cooperation in artificial intelligence and data infrastructure.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Dr Manmhoan Singh Bengaluru City University and others: Inauguration of 36th annual conference of Karnataka Itihasa Parishath; Ramojigowda, DT Srinivas and others; Jnajajyoti Hall, Central College; 10 am.

HOPCOMS: Mango and Jackfruit Mela; SS Mallikarjun and others; HOPCOMS Central Office, Lalbagh; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Rangasthe: Staging of 'Mayadweepa' by Nenapu team members; Yuvapatha, Jayanagar 4th Block; 7 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Nimishambadevi Temple: Poornahuti, Mahamangalatati, Temple Road, Cottonpet; 8.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	36.4°C
Minimum	22.9°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	32%
Sunset (April 24)	6:33 pm
Sunrise (April 25)	6:03 am
Moonrise	11:28 am
Moonset	--:-- pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

WHERE LEARNING COMES ALIVE

Planetarium to host workshop on Zero Shadow Day

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium (JNP) is hosting a workshop on Friday to mark the rare occasion of 'Zero Shadow Day'.

The event will include a workshop, an exhibition, and demonstrations explaining the phenomenon.

The zero shadow phenomenon can be observed in Bengaluru at 12.18 pm.

Speaking to *DH*, BK Guruprasad, Director of JNP, said, "We are hosting the event to increase awareness about science and astronomy among children.

"While they learn about such concepts in theory, it is important to understand their practical aspects, which is why we are organising this programme."

The planetarium will also use a gnomon to help explain the phenomenon, he said.

A gnomon is the part of a sundial that casts a shadow, serving as an indicator of time and direction.

It is one of the oldest instruments used to determine orientation.

Two-day event explores sustainable innovation

BENGALURU, DHNS: The 'Festival of Ideas', a two-day event themed 'Frugal Innovation: Paving the Way for a Sustainable Future', will be held on Friday and Saturday as part of the 'India–France Year of Innovation'.

Organised by the French Institute in India in collaboration with the Alliance Française de Bangalore, the event will take place at the Alliance Française premises in Vasanth Nagar and at the Science Gallery Bengaluru on Ballari Road.

The event aims to bring together experts, researchers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers from India and France to discuss resource-efficient approaches to innovation amid growing environmental and economic challenges.

On Friday, a workshop on 'Frugal Artificial Intelligence' will focus on building cost-effective and energy-efficient systems. This will be followed by the 'Night of Ideas', a public discussion on 'Frugality and the Pursuit of Happiness', featuring speakers from diverse disciplines.

An exhibition titled 'World Without End', exploring energy use, economic growth, and climate change, will also open the same day and remain on view for a month.

On Saturday, a day-long forum titled 'Frugal Innovation Forum' will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, and roundtables across sectors such as healthcare, space research, architecture, and digital public infrastructure. The sessions will examine how frugal innovation can be applied across industries and public systems.

For details, visit institutfrancais-india.in.

Two delivery executives arrested for harassing woman on the road

BENGALURU, DHNS: Yelahanka police arrested two people for allegedly harassing a woman walking on the road.

The arrested are 21-year-old Harisha and 23-year-old Prajwal, both delivery executives in Avalahalli.

On the afternoon of April 21, the two, riding a two-wheeler near Yelahanka, drove close to the woman and behaved indecently.

A video of the incident circulated widely on social media, drawing a strong response from netizens.

Police registered a case and traced the suspects using the registration number on their two-wheeler.

Notices were issued and both appeared at the police station on April 23.

"They were taken into custody, and upon interrogation, they confessed to the act of indecent behaviour towards the woman," police said in a statement.

Invites to be published should be sent to:
incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.
Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

E-locks, QR codes: State plans digital shield against illicit liquor

Easy verification of every bottle in legal market

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Excise Reforms 2026 report outlines a strategy to modernise the state's excise administration by transitioning from manual, inspection-heavy supervision to a technology-driven regulatory framework.

The report recommends digital tools to monitor the entire liquor supply chain. Proposing a digital track-and-trace system where every bottle is assigned a unique digital code at the point of production. This allows for a continuous, verifiable record of movement from the manufacturer to the retailer.

A primary goal of this system is to make every bottle in the legal market easily verifiable, which effectively makes any bottle without a code suspicious and easier to identify for enforcement agencies.

To eliminate the need for physical police escorts during liquor transit, the report suggests introducing electronic locks (E-locks) for transport vehicles. These locks allow for real-time monitoring of consignments, ensuring they are not diverted into illicit channels.

The report argues that the current system stifles competition, encourages corruption and fails to protect the consumer. Recommending a phased transition away from the current quota-based licensing. Under the existing system, the number of liquor licences is strictly capped, often leading to enormous premiums for new outlets and the clustering of shops in high-traffic areas.

Instead, the committee proposes a registration-based entry system to be implemented over the next three to five years. Under this model, any entity that meets strict statutory requirements regarding location, safety and background checks would be allowed to register and operate.

Dismantling the quota system

- **Retail reform:** Report suggests transitioning over 3–5 years from the current quota-based licensing to registration-based entry.
- **Wholesale competition:** The committee recommends reviewing the monopoly of the Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Limited (KSBCL), moving toward a phased, competitive wholesale model under digital oversight.
- **Home delivery:** Interestingly, the report suggests that regulated online sales could be considered if supported by age verification and digital authentication.

KSTDC offers new one-day summer tour package in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) has launched a one-day package tour this summer, covering key destinations in and around the city.

The air-conditioned bus tour covers Bannerghatta National Park and Muthyala Maduvu waterfalls and runs daily, except Tuesdays.

The tour starts from Yeshwantpur at 7.15 am, with pick-up points at the bus stands at Kempegowda (7.30 am), Shantinagar (7.45 am), and Jayanagar (8 am).

The package includes a visit to the Bannerghatta Zoo, safari and butterfly park, followed by boating and sunset viewing at Muthyala Maduvu. The cost is Rs 1,680 per person.

Tourists booking through KSTDC get direct entry at all gates of the Bannerghatta National Park.

WORLD CIRCUS DAY 2026
ONLY FOR 6 DAYS
24th 25th 26th APRIL 2026
01st 02nd 03rd MAY 2026
RAMBO CIRCUS
ROBOTIC ELEPHANT
BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW book my show | 8306430643
ST.JOHN'S AUDITORIUM
OPP BDA COMPLEX, GATE NO.5, KORAMANGALA

57 job aspirants conned of Rs 1.83 cr, CCB books three

BENGALURU, DHNS

Central Crime Branch (CCB) officers have registered a case against three persons for allegedly cheating 57 job aspirants of Rs 1.83 crore by promising them government jobs.

The accused have been identified as Y Ramesh (49), D Raghavendra (42) and B S Dhruvakumar (33).

According to the FIR, the prime accused Ramesh operated between 2019 and 2023, targeting unemployed youth and assuring them of securing jobs in government departments through his alleged influence and contacts.

Surendranath Rao Mirjakar, the complainant, was initially introduced to Ramesh in 2019 through a mutual acquaintance. Ramesh claimed that he was well-connected and could facilitate government jobs in BESCOM for the posts of attenders and junior assistants.

Trusting his assurances, a group of 21 job aspirants collectively paid Rs 51 lakh in cash during the initial stage and the victims are natives of Bengaluru City, Ballari and Davangere.

Subsequently, Ramesh introduced Mirjakar, a retired government employee, and others to Raghavendra, stating that further dealings would be handled through him.

Over the next few years, more aspirants were brought into the network, and payments continued in both cash and bank transfers. A total of 57 aspirants paid Rs 1.83 crore, with nearly Rs 48 lakh directly transferred to Raghavendra's bank account.

Despite repeated follow-ups, no jobs were secured. Mirjakar alleged that the accused kept delaying the process on various pretexts. In October 2023, when pressure mounted for a refund, Raghavendra reportedly introduced another person, Manjunath Nayak, claiming he had been entrusted with the funds.

In November 2023, the accused allegedly returned Rs 29 lakh in instalments and the amount was handed over to Dhruvakumar for safekeeping as it could not be transported safely. However, Dhruvakumar allegedly failed to return the money and retained it despite repeated demands. Further, the accused issued six cheques towards repayment, all of which bounced due to insufficient funds. Then he stopped responding to calls and messages, and in some cases blocked the victims' phone numbers.

Based on a complaint, the CCB registered a case and have been verifying bank transactions and the roles of each accused in the alleged fraud, a senior police officer said.

MLA seeks action against bars, liquor shops violating norms

BENGALURU, DHNS

Raising concerns over alleged large-scale violations of prescribed business hours by liquor outlets, Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking strict enforcement of rules governing bars and liquor shops across the state.

In his letter, Suresh Kumar, the former minister, saidthat during his daily ward walk initiative, where he spends at least 90 minutes interacting with residents and assessing local issues, he observed a 'serious and disturbing trend' of bars operating far beyond the permitted hours. He alleged that many establishments begin business as early as 5 am, in blatant violation of norms.

While acknowledging that liquor sales contribute significantly to the state exchequer through excise revenue, Suresh Kumar criticised the government for ignoring the social consequences of alcohol consumption.

He said government's guarantee schemes such as Gruhalakshmi and Shakti aim to support households financially, but unchecked liquor access undermines these efforts by pushing many into addiction. Liquor outlets too are mandated to operate only within prescribed timings. However, he claimed that enforcement has been weak, allowing widespread violations.

The MLA said he had personally visited a few bars early in the morning and found them open between 6 am and 7 am, with customers allegedly consuming alcohol in an inebriated state. Visuals of such inspections have also circulated widely on social media, he added.

Expressing concern over the impact on residential areas, he pointed out that women and children are often exposed to 'disturbing scenes' due to such early-morning operations.

Suresh Kumar urged the government to initiate strict enforcement of notified business hours for liquor shops and bars, and action against excise and police officials if violations continue. Alternatively, he said, if the government is unable to enforce restrictions, it should officially permit 24x7 operations instead of allowing illegal practices to persist.

SESHADRIPURAM INSTITUTIONS

ADMISSIONS OPEN for 1st PUC : 2026-27

SESHADRIPURAM INDEPENDENT PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
27, Nagappa Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.
Prof. Prashanth R., Principal, Tel: 22955358. website: spucmain.ac.in
COMMERCE: MSBA / MEBA / SEBA / CEBA | SCIENCE: PCMB / PCME / PCMCs

SESHADRIPURAM COMPOSITE PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
40, Girls' School Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.
Prof G. K. Manjunath, Principal, Tel: 22955365. website: scpucblr.ac.in
COMMERCE: MSBA / MEBA / SEBA / CEBA | SCIENCE: PCMB / PCME / PCMCs

SESHADRIPURAM PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560 064.
Prof. T. Doddegowda, Principal, Tel: 22955372. website: www.scpuc.ac.in
COMMERCE: MSBA / MEBA / SEBA / CEBA | SCIENCE: PCMB / PCMCs

SESHADRIPURAM INDEPENDENT PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
18, 2nd Main, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru-560 060,
Dr. Manjunath R. Principal, Tel: 22955377. website: www.spuc.ac.in
COMMERCE: MEBA / SEBA / CEBA | SCIENCE: PCMB / PCME / PCMCs

SESHADRIPURAM EVENING PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
27, Nagappa Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.
Prof. R. Mahalakshmi, Principal, Tel: 22955359. website: www.sepuc.ac.in
COMMERCE: HEBA / CEBA

N. R. Pandith Aradhya, President
Dr. Wooday P. Krishna, Honorary General Secretary

MARUTI SUZUKI
NEXA
e VITARA
India goes electric
Introductory BaaS price
₹10.99 LAKH* + Battery EMI @ ₹3.99/km
INDIA'S LARGEST* FAST-CHARGING NETWORK
543km RANGE
543 km RANGE*
BHARAT NCAP
5 STAR SAFETY RATING BNCAP*
NEXA edge
60% ASSURED BUYBACK AFTER 3 YEARS
COMPLIMENTARY HOME CHARGER & INSTALLATION WORTH ₹ 50 000
8 YEARS WARRANTY
• BATTERY: 8 YEARS
• VEHICLE: 3+5(PAID) YEARS
COMPLIMENTARY CHARGING FOR 1 YEAR
SCAN TO CONNECT TO A SHOWROOM NEAR YOU
E-BOOK TODAY @ WWW.NEXAEXPERIENCE.COM
*₹ 10.99 lakh for e VITARA Delta. Battery EMI: ₹ 3.99/km (subject to financier terms). Taxes and statutory charges are extra. Visit dealership for full T&Cs. | *As certified by Kantar IMRB for an OEM platform for end-to-end usage as on November 28, 2025. | *543 km range: Certified range; actual results may vary by driving conditions and usage. | *ADAS features are for driver assistance only. Driver is responsible for safe and attentive driving. | *Always wear your seatbelt. | *Mentioned ownership plan is for e VITARA Delta variant. Calculation is done assuming vehicle is running 60 km per day, excluding charging cost. Valid on retail sales for the e VITARA till 30th April '26, capped at 1 000 units of electricity (kWh) per customer or 1 Year from the purchase of the vehicle, whichever is earlier. Assured buyback plan is available on payment basis with the option of 3 years/45 000 km or 4 years/60 000 km ownership plans (whichever is earlier). The program is offered through an Insurance company. e VITARA comes with standard warranty of 3 years/1 00 000 km with an option of extending the same on payment basis to 5 years/1 40 000 km and service activated coverage for 6th to 8th year for EV related components.

B'lureans sign up for active getaways

Fitness enthusiasts are seeking holidays built around workouts, races and demanding activities

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The 'Ultrahuman HYROX' event, which was held on April 11 and 12, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, drew over 8,000 participants, who each spent about Rs 9,000 to participate.

The unprecedented success of events like Hyrox has highlighted the growing awareness of fitness among Bengalureans, who have no qualms about parting with a significant amount of money to put their body through the paces.

Another trend that has seen steady growth in the last few years is that of fitness travel. Fitness enthusiasts have been organising their holidays around activities tailored to their interests.

Prashanth Ponappa, who runs a gym in Domlur, was among the thousands who participated in the recent Hyrox event. However, it was not his first rodeo. In late March, he travelled to Bangkok to participate in another Hyrox event. The race has also taken him to Mumbai and Delhi. "The first Hyrox event I went to had about 1,500 participants, and the latest one had over 8,000," he notes, adding that the popularity of Hyrox is owing to its "simple movements which are doable for all fitness levels".

Gauri Jayaram has been organising holidays built around the World Marathon Majors, which includes the London Marathon.

When media professional Nasreen Patel travelled to Bali in November 2025, she picked a hotel close to a fitness centre she had wanted to try out. "I had heard so much about it and done a fair bit of research," recalls the 38-year-old.

While hitting the beach was definitely on the cards, she was equally looking forward to the centre's spinning, strength, and pilates classes. She also signed up for surfing lessons. "It was for my birthday, and I wanted to do a solo trip that was meaningful for me," says Nasreen. She notes that fitness hotels, where training sessions are a main part of their packages, are gaining popularity.

On the putting green

Apart from endurance training, tourism centred around a specific sport is also picking up in Bengaluru. Golfing enthusiast K S Vasanthkumar travelled with a group of 12 to Antalya, Turkey, in 2025 with the sole agenda of golfing in the region's courses. "Antalya has 25 courses, and each one is unique. Over eight days, we played in six different courses," he recalls, adding that the cost was roughly Rs 3.5-4 lakh per person. The toughest was a link course, near the ocean. "The winds were strong, so reading the wind and playing your shots accordingly added another layer of complication," he notes, adding that his passion for the game has also taken him to Vietnam and Thailand.

The group booked the tour through a travel company that specialises in golf tourism. "Everything from the airport to hotel transfers, to the pickup and drop from the hotel to the golf courses and back were taken care of by them, as were all our meals," he shares.

Rishabh Malhotra, founder of a fitness centre in Bengaluru, completed the annual Transcontinental Race in 2017. Back then, travel for fitness was unheard of, he says. "I think I was the only Indian in the race, which sees 100s of cyclists, traversing through 8-10 European countries with no support. Unlike the Tour De France, where players have backup, on this race, you're on your own," he explains.

Participants generally cycle for 18-20 hours a day for 8-9 days and sleep when they can. He recalls sneaking in quick naps on park benches and footpaths. He would check into a hotel only when he had to recharge his electronic devices. "In 2017, it cost about Rs 10,000 to sign up for the race," he shares.

Marathon majors

Active Holiday Company, based in Bengaluru, organises holidays around the Abbott World Marathon Majors and the SuperHalfs. The former includes the Tokyo, Boston, London, Sydney, Berlin, Chicago, and New York marathons. The latter is a series of half-marathons in locations like Lisbon, Prague, Berlin and Copenhagen.

Gauri Jayaram, the founder and a marathoner herself, felt the need for such a niche back in 2013, when she set up the company. "I knew there would be a market for it in the near future," she states. However, she admits that the first few years were dry. "2019 was our first profitable year. Of course, the pandemic brought business to a standstill. But after 2021, it has been unprecedented, until the start of the West Asia crisis in February this year," she explains. Accommodation, guaranteed race entry and networking events are some of the features the company offers.

Gauri notes that fitness travel has seen a massive growth post the pandemic. "We've seen a 50% year-on-year growth," says Gauri, who is currently at the London Marathon, with over 200 of her clients. "In 2013, our first group trip had about 10 participants," she recalls.

POPCORN

Jailbreak news

Soon after the leak of Vijay's film 'Jana Nayagan' comes news of another leak. Turns out pirates have hijacked a clip from Rajinikanth's 'Jailer 2', the action-thriller awaiting release later this year. Fans have a question. Who are these pirates daring Rajini? In any case, if you're still hoping he will enter politics, that ship has sailed. When he flips a cigarette and says, 'Even if I come late, I will come latest,' he is now talking about a movie release, not politics.

EVENTS

Comedy show

Stand-up comedian Kenny Sebastian will perform his new comedy special 'Tempo Tantrums' on April 25 and 26, 4.30 pm, at MLR Convention Centre, Whitefield. Tickets online.

Dance

'The Many Lives of Dance', a week-long event, will bring together dancers and dance scholars across forms, traditions, and contexts at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, from April 26 to May 3. Entry free. For schedule, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Tamil play

Adavi Arts Collective is opening their play 'Vanapuri Vaathukaaran', written and directed by Naren, on May 16, at 7 pm, at Shoonya Centre for Art and Somatic Practices, Sudhama Nagar. Tickets online.

City to mark Jazz Day with multi-venue fest

Haripriya Narasimhan of SoulTrane Trio.

AMANDA V JAMES
TEAM METROLIFE

With over 10 performances across five venues over five days, Bengaluru is gearing up for one of its most expansive International Jazz Day celebrations yet. The event is organised by Bangalore School of Music (BSM), in association with Alliance Française Bangalore and Goethe-Institut.

The line-up includes concerts, jam sessions, lecture demonstrations and interactive events.

The festival opens on April 24 at Goethe-Institut in Indiranagar with performances by Can't Quit The Blues, 22 Avenue, Purple Mints and Cameo Trio. On April 25, BSM will host a showcase featuring young jazz students, the BSM Jazz Orchestra and the Deep Blue Brass Ensemble.

Alliance Française Bangalore will host a packed afternoon on April 26, featuring vocalist Radha Thomas and her jazz quartet, Aman Mahajan's REFUGE project, the Rubina Robinson Quartet, Karthik Mani Group, MoonArra, SoulTrane Trio and Congo Jazz Trio, among others.

The final two days shift focus to interactive formats. On April 29 at BIC, participants will engage with jazz as a form of resistance by composing a blues piece based on prompts. On April 30 at the Science Gallery, under the theme "jazz as cooking", a session will guide participants to write poetry or prose around food, tying into the gallery's ongoing 'Calorie' exhibition.

Jagadeesh M R, director, BSM, said the intent is to make audiences active participants. "The last few days offer something unique. Getting people to write and engage directly with jazz adds a fun, interactive element," he noted.

Reflecting on the city's jazz scene, drummer and konnakol artist Karthik Mani noted its evolution. "Jazz was at its peak between the 1970s and 1990s, with live music across clubs. Today, it has blended with other forms, with collaborations across genres and geographies. Pure jazz still exists, but it has taken new shapes," he said.

Haripriya Narasimhan of the SoulTrane Trio said the event was instrumental in bringing her group together. "The collaborative spirit of jazz is what makes it so wholesome," she said. The festival offers a chance to engage with jazz in varied forms across the city.

April 24-30. Across multiple venues. Entry free. For details, call 4128 5017.

Still thrilled? Revisiting the Jackson legacy

As the biopic 'Michael' returns MJ to the spotlight, city musicians look back on their memories of the star

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

With the Michael Jackson biopic bringing the artiste back into global conversation, city musicians are revisiting his enduring influence. From shaping their early listening years to informing performance styles even today, the artiste's legacy continues to resonate, even as debates around separating the art from the artiste persist.

For Bengaluru-based music producer and drummer Jared Sandhy, Michael Jackson remains an active part of his performance repertoire. "As part of my project, Jared Goes Live, we perform commercial covers, and a big part of our set features MJ," he says, citing favourites like 'Billie Jean', 'Beat It', 'Thriller' and 'Jam'.

Sandhy attributes Jackson's lasting appeal to his depth as an artiste. "He's quite complex — not just as a singer, but also as someone who followed his heart in everything he created. There was a lot of honesty in his music, which is why it still feels fresh to younger listeners," he says. He recalls watching the 'Smooth Criminal' music video as a child: "The build-up, the white suit, the way he moved on the beat, I was completely drawn in."

'Undeniable impact'

For Debjeet Basu of the band Perfect Strangers, Michael Jackson remains both a musical force and a complex public figure. "I grew up with his music," he says. "We've put together an MJ tribute set, spanning everything from the Jackson 5 era to his solo work, and have been performing it across venues over the past year," says Basu. He feels that Jackson's music "was never just pop". "There was funk, soul, disco — multiple genres coming together. Albums like 'Thriller' featuring collaborations with artistes like Toto and Quincy Jones, are landmark recordings," he notes.

For musician Bruce Lee Mani, founder of Thermal And A Quarter, MJ was an essential part of growing up, even if his musical tastes have since changed.

Jaafar Jackson, nephew of Michael Jackson, plays the artiste in the biopic. A screengrab from the movie.
CREDIT: YOUTUBE

"I was a big fan, especially through the '80s and early '90s. I haven't listened to his music much in recent years, but his impact on my childhood is undeniable," he says. Mani was particularly drawn to Jackson's visual storytelling. "The videos were path-breaking. Few artistes were making work that elaborate or grand," he says.

Unavoidable presence

For pianist and singer-songwriter Neecia Majolly, Jackson was an unavoidable presence while growing up, even if his music did not directly shape her own practice. "'Ben' is a lovely ballad, which I use with my students. And 'Blame It on the Boogie' with the Jackson 5 is such a fun piece," she explains.

"Even without the Internet, we all knew his songs, the moves, everything," classical vocalist Manasi Prasad says, recalling how they circulated cassettes of his music among friends. "His songs embodied rhythm, and his dance was an extension of the music," she adds.

Among his many hits, 'Billie Jean' remains a favourite. "'Thriller' felt like something entirely new that everyone experienced collectively," she says, adding that it stood in contrast to the classical music she was immersed in.

She adds that this complexity is what makes the upcoming biopic worth watching. "A biopic like this carries responsibility. It shouldn't gloss over uncomfortable aspects."

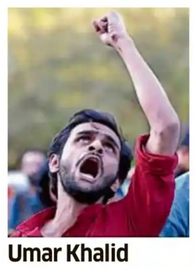
Art vs artiste

On separating the art from the artiste, opinions remain nuanced. "Art is made by flawed humans, and separating the two is easier said than done," says Mani, adding that while wrongdoing must have consequences, it doesn't erase past impact. Basu believes separating the two is necessary. "If you judge musical heroes purely on their personal lives, it becomes difficult to engage with the art," he says, adding that the absence of definitive legal conviction shaped his view. "I never stopped listening."

Reading of Umar Khalid's anthology

The editors of the book 'Umar Khalid and His World', Anirban Bhattacharya, Banojyotsna Lahiri and Shuddhabrata Sengupta, will read excerpts from the book on April 28 in Bengaluru. The reading will be followed by a discussion with historians Janaki Nair, Ramachandra Guha, and actor-public intellectual Prakash Raj. It will be moderated by Aravind Narrain of PUCL.

The event is being organised by All Lawyers Association for Justice (ALAJ), People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), and Bahutva Karnataka.


Umar Khalid

'Umar Khalid and His World' is an anthology of writings on and by the Indian activist and political prisoner, who has been incarcerated without a trial for over 2,000 days (about five and a half years). He was arrested on September 13, 2020, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for his alleged involvement in the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots.

The book documents the political climate of the country through essays, his speeches, letters from jail, and testimonies from his friends. The anthology also throws light on the Prisoner No 626720's ideas and events that have been the defining moments in his journey since he was imprisoned, underlining the injustices political prisoners face. It has contributions from intellectuals, scholars, journalists, lawyers and human rights activists.

Umar Khalid and His World on April 28, 6 pm at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur.

FIND YOUR VIBE

Seeking safe spaces in microcommunities

Strangers in Bengaluru are gathering in intimate groups to bond over shared interests and discover their "tribe"

SHRADDHA A K &
M S RISHABH SHANKAR
TEAM METROLIFE

On weekends in Bengaluru, small groups of strangers gather on terraces, in bookstores, and in quiet corners of the city. They unite over books, games, art, or simply the desire to connect. These microcommunities, which are small groups based on shared interests, are changing how individuals find belonging in the city.

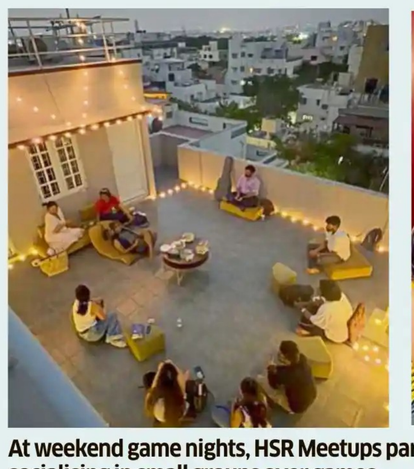
Unlike large commercial events, these gatherings focus on intimacy, whether it's a 10-person sharing circle in Indiranagar, a 15-person reading session in HSR Layout, or even a now-closed DIY skate park in R K Hegde Nagar; the aim is connection rather than scale.

"Bengaluru is overcrowded, but they don't know anyone," says Anu Thomas, organiser of HSR Meetups, a board game community that meets in cafes across HSR Layout. "With a largely migrant population, many people arrive without established social circles and often encounter repetitive or lonely weekends," Anu adds.

Microcommunities fill this gap. The Et Al. Club, founded by Harshita and Anwesha, started as a book club but quickly grew to include conversations about films, music, and personal experiences apart from the books. "Come as you are" is a guiding principle for their gathering. On Harshita's terrace, they host book club evenings where participants can bring any book or join without one. "Bring your cat if you want," Harshita jokes. These meet-ups often lead to deep conversations about life, game nights, and new connections.

Why smaller feels safer

A key feature of these communities is their size; smaller groups make it easier to open up. At Bougainvillaea Circle, led by happiness coach Radhika B Ghose, sessions are limited to about 10 participants. Each week, participants express themselves through speaking, writing, or art based on a prompt. Radhika, the facilitator, introduces herself to foster a comfortable atmosphere where participants can connect without sharing names, allowing for subtle acknowledgement of each other's experiences. "The smaller the space, the easier it is for people to be heard," she says.



At weekend game nights, HSR Meetups participants spend their evenings socialising in small groups over games.

Psychotherapist Kala Balasubramanian notes that smaller groups foster this sense of connection, providing what she calls a "stroke," or unit of recognition. She emphasises that staying connected can help guard against anxiety and depression.

More than social spaces

These gatherings may seem casual, but they often become informal support systems. Anu notes that participants leave feeling lighter after a weekend of fun with others. At Bougainvillaea Circle, they return not just for activities but for the comfort of "our circle," which helps combat loneliness and fosters emotional support.

The Cave skate park, founded in 2014, served as a freestyle venue for skaters and eventually became a community hub for artists and musicians. Co-founder Poornabodh Nadavatti described it as "a home away from home," recalling a young person who once stayed overnight to avoid going home. Even after the recent closure of the park, the community remains connected via WhatsApp, continuing to skate in new locations while awaiting a new park by the government in Balbhavan.

What sets these microcommunities apart is their flexibility — there are no fixed agendas at Et Al., no forced conversations at HSR Meetups, or prescribed ways to express oneself at Bougainvillaea Circle. The skate park naturally fostered contributions from musicians, artists, and skaters alike. "There's a sense of ownership," Nadavatti explains, emphasising how participation makes the space feel like theirs.

The rise of these communities perhaps reflects a broader change where people are back to seeking meaningful, in-person connections.

Find Your Vibe *is an occasional column that highlights positive community efforts and passion pursuits in Bengaluru. Send your suggestions to metrolife@deccanherald.co.in*

Masculinity in focus at event

ANANYA KOPPA
TEAM METROLIFE

A two-day event hopes to open up conversations around masculinity, gender and society through art, research and dialogue. Organised by Maraa, the event centres around the launch of 'Mardangi ke Roop', a guide designed to help initiate discussions on masculinity in diverse contexts. The guide is the result of nearly five years of work and collaboration with around 30 people from NGOs and social movements across the country. It looks at masculinity beyond just men and boys, bringing in intersections of caste, class, labour, language and landscape.

On April 25, the launch will be accompanied by panel discussions featuring community-based practitioners. The second day focuses on "Making/Unmaking", a research initiative that supports artists, activists and practitioners to study their own communities.

April 25-26. At Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. For details, look up bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

'VHP reaching out to industry bodies, corporates to check 'love jihad' at workplace'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) general secretary Milind Parande on Thursday announced that the organisation would reach out to industry bodies like the FICCI and CII and urge them to pay attention to incidents like 'love jihad' at workplaces and religious conversion.

Speaking at a press meet in Bengaluru, Parande said, "Bajrang Dal has held 1,000 demonstrations across the cities to highlight the alleged incidents of 'love jihad' and religious conversions in corporate workspaces. The TCS incident in Maharashtra is not an isolated case. We have information about such incidents in other corporates too. Bengaluru-based companies have been given the benefit of doubt. We will meet state-level associations and some companies and tell them our areas of worry and their practices. There should be a rethink about rules of engagement to control mischievous activities," he said, adding that VHP helplines are active to report such cases.

Alleging the Congress government's 'discriminatory' treatment of Hindu activists in Karnataka, he said, "Hindu activists are being targeted, FIRs are lodged and they are barred from traveling across districts. Also, anti-cow slaughter laws are effective and there is a need to block the Karnataka-Kerala-Tamil Nadu smuggling routes, set up checkposts and take action against repeated offenders and vehicle owners."

Land acquisition: SC dismisses appeal filed by NICE

Govt or KIADB not precluded to initiate fresh proceedings

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has declined to interfere with the Karnataka High Court's 2017 orders, which quashed land acquisition proceedings in respect of a group of land owners for the purposes of Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project (BMICP).

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma dismissed civil appeal filed by Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd, after hearing senior advocate Atmaram Nadakarni for the appellant, senior advocate Kiran Suri for the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board, S A Ahmed, Additional Advocate General for the State of Karnataka, and senior counsel Vikas Singh for the respondents (land owners), at some length.

The court found that it was admitted at the bar that after the preliminary notification under sub-section (1), Section 28 of the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Act, 1966 was issued on June 2, 1999, no declaration under sub-section (4) thereof followed such notification.

"In such view of the matter, the High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru was justified in holding that the acquisition proceedings which had been initiated stands abandoned by the State of Karnataka. We, therefore, see no reason to interfere with the impugned judgment and order of the High Court," the bench said in its order on April 22, 2026.

However, the court clarified that the order of dismissal would not preclude the Karnataka government or KIADB to initiate fresh proceedings for land acquisition, including the lands of the respondents, in conformity with the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Act, 1966 (as amended), as the case may be, for the requirements of the NICE.

But the compensation would be payable in terms of the Fair Compensation Act, the court said.

The lead respondent Lakshman claimed to be the absolute owner of land bearing, measuring 1 acre 35 guntas and the land, measuring 19 guntas of Mallasandra village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, under a registered sale deed in 2004.

It was contended on a representation by the vendors that the land had been duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural use and the petitioner has been in physical possession of the lands in question.

It was only in the year 2015 that the petitioner has learnt in retrospect of a notification having been issued under Section 28(1) of the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Act, 1966. He filed a writ petition, contending that the acquisition proceedings have not been completed, including the issuance of the final notification even after the lapse of 16 years.

The single judge bench of the High Court allowed the writ petition, saying acquisition proceedings not having progressed from the year 1999, it was deemed that the State has abandoned the land in question from acquisition proceedings and it would be available to the land owner for his use and occupation. A division bench upheld the single judge's order and subsequently dismissed the writ appeal by the KIADB.

Hip, knee replacement surgeries at more govt hospitals

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state Health department plans to extend Total Knee Replacement (TKR) and Total Hip Replacement (THR) surgeries to 39 government facilities, including 13 district hospitals, one government autonomous hospital, 17 government medical college hospitals and eight taluk hospitals.

Currently 22 hospital facilities across the state have the facility.

The department implemented a few reforms, including modified online referral system (ORS), expansion of government hospital network and mentorship programme which have collectively reduced the referrals to private hospitals.

Speaking at the press conference in the city on Thursday, Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "In 2023, 66% of the cases of knee and hip replacement surgeries were referred to private hospitals. In 2025-2026, about 99% of the cases that come to government hospitals underwent surgeries in government hospitals and only one percent were sent as referrals."

In the financial year 2023-2024, a total of 633 cases were reported which went up to 1,119 cases in the financial year 2025-26.

The department posted expert orthopaedic surgeons to government hospitals to perform surgeries and train in-house doctors. However, the minister also agreed that there is a shortage of orthopaedic surgeons in the department.

The state has also increased the package reimbursement to patients from 75% to 100% in government hospitals. "We will continue to increase the facilities aiming for it to be implemented in every district hospital," the minister further said.

The government also has a free second opinion toll free helpline (1800 425 8330) which aims to help TKR and THR patients make a decision before undergoing the procedure. The calls will be answered by experts and the patients will have to upload their medical reports based on that the doctors will categorise patients into Grade 1 and 2 or Grade 3 and 4 depending on severity of the case.

Summer preparedness

The health department has set aside a few beds in Community Health Centres (CHCs) and taluk hospitals to treat cases of dehydration, heat stroke and other summer-related health issues, the minister informed.

"In the coming week, the same setups will be made in hospitals in Bengaluru including KC General Gospital, CV Raman Hospital and other hospitals under the department. We have also advised on stocking of Oral Rehydration Solutions," the minister added.

Teen gives birth in toilet, slits baby's throat

Baby killed, From page 1

The blockage initially came to light at 9.15 pm on Tuesday. It was decided to take a look the following day, as the housekeeping technician's shift had ended, the FIR noted.

A preliminary probe by the police revealed that the throat of the premature baby was slit before being dumped in the toilet.

"The woman was traced and identified as Renuka, who was seven months pregnant when she gave birth. She is 19 and works as an operator in the factory. She is originally from Yadgir and stayed on the premises in the dormitory," a police investigator told *DH*.

Renuka is currently at a hospital receiving treatment as she developed an infection since she hadn't taken any postpartum treatment. The Vishwanathapura police registered a case on April 22 under BNS Sections 103 (murder) and 93 (exposure and abandonment of child under twelve years of age, by parent or person having care of it).

"The woman's family in Yadgir have been informed, as she lived here alone. Prima facie, it is learnt that the woman got pregnant out of wedlock and when she was using the toilet on April 21, went into labour suddenly and delivered prematurely," the officer quoted previously said, adding that they suspect the woman took the step fearing societal stigma. Further investigation is on.

Host of events to mark Dr Raj's birth anniversary today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Several organisations and fan associations of thespian Dr Rajkumar have organised a host of programmes to mark his birth anniversary on Friday.

The day will begin with the garlanding of Dr Rajkumar's statue at the Film Chamber of Commerce.

Dr Rajkumar IAS KAS Academy is offering its annual scholarship test 2026 in his remembrance, allowing students to receive up to 100% scholarships in civil services. Multiple live jam sessions will be held across the city with Pavan Bhat hosting shows at CTR, Satya Anantham and Ibbani Cafe.

Indian Heritage Academy, along with Azim Premji University, is hosting 'Annavru, Annavre', celebrating the music and autobiography of the legend.

There is also a photo exhibition at the Indian Heritage Academy featuring a collection of rare and specially curated photographs of Dr Rajkumar.

Energy minister launches Bescom's 'HT Mitra' grievance redress portal

BENGALURU, DHNS: Energy Minister K J George launched Bescom's 'HT Mitra' service request/grievance redressal portal on Thursday. It has been developed by the utility's own engineers for its High Tension (HT) consumers.

Speaking after inaugurating the portal at Bescom's corporate office, George said, "The portal will serve as a transparent and effective platform for consumers to raise service requests, register and get complaints resolved. This facility will be available across Bescom jurisdiction, benefiting more than 18,000 HT consumers."

He said, "Earlier, consumers had to rely on 1912 helpline or visit Bescom offices to register complaints. The portal addresses these gaps. Consumers can log in, register complaints and track status in real time. They will get SMS updates on their phones".

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division

Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer Electric Loco Shed, Erode

E-Tender Notice

Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No	**SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_2, Dated: 21-04-2026**
Description of Work	Servicing of ELGI make TRC1000 MN, TRC1000 MNUG, compressors of electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

DEE/RS/ED
For Sr.DEE/RS/ED

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Palakkad Division

E-Tender Notice No. PGT/OT/07/2026 dated 20/04/2026

For and behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works.

Sl. No	Name of work	Approx. Cash value in (₹) Lakhs	Bid Security Amount ₹	Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs.	completion Period in months
1.	Palakkad Division: Proposed Supply of welding portions with all accessories approved by RDSO for fusion welding.	311.30	6,22,600/-	20.05.2026	Twenty Four
2.	Senior Section Engineer/Works/Shoranur Section Supply of potable water for summer season by Contractor's own source to Railway stations and colony etc for the year 2026.	124.36	2,48,700/-	12.05.2026	Twelve
3.	Palakkad Division - Renewal of Glued Joints, SEJs and elimination of Fish plated joints in yards across division.	233.48	4,67,000/-	20.05.2026	Twelve

1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.
2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards.
3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site **"http://www.ireps.gov.in."**

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

Sr. Divisional Engineer/West/Southern Railway/Palakkad
(For and on behalf of the President of India)

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION

ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING

Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2026-2027-03 Date: 21.04.2026.

DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works:- **Name of work with its locality**: Provision of Electronic Interlocking at Ghami (proposed new Block station) in Latur-Latur Road section of Solapur Division of Central Railway., **Tender No.:** SUR-N-T-2026-2027-03, **Approximate Cost of the work:** Rs. 8,67,22,898.49, **Cost of the work:** NIL, **Earnest money to be deposited:** Rs. 17,34,500/-, **Completion period of the work:** 12 Months, **Date & Time of Closing of tender:** 15.05.2026 after 15:30 Hrs. The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum/ amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/ postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids). For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Divisional Railway Manager
Central Railway, Solapur

DE/Sur-20

TRAVEL SAFELY, AVOID FOOTBOARD TRAVELLING

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that Happiest **Health Systems Private Limited** ("**Company**") and **Smt. Malini, Smt. N. Shylaja, Sri. H. S. Chiranthan, Sri. S. Karthik, Smt. B. Chandrakala, Sri. H. B. Gautham, Sri. H. M. Venugopal, and Sri. Poonam Chand Gehlot** ("**Owners**") have a subsisting understanding, in respect of the entire building comprising 2 basement floors and 5 upper floors constructed on the land bearing Khatha No 1331/38/2 comprised in Survey No 38/2, approximately measuring 1 acre (43205 square feet) situated at Bannerghatta Road, Arekere, Bangalore South Taluk and District which is morefully described in the **SCHEDULE** hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the "**Property**", pursuant to documentation executed between the parties in this regard and amounts paid by the Company.

Accordingly, any person(s)/ entity(ies) proposing to enter into or having entered into any transaction, agreement, arrangement or dealing of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Property, including but not limited to any lease, sub-lease, licence or any other arrangement, are hereby put on notice that the Company has a subsisting arrangement in respect of the Property, and any such subsequent transaction or proposed transaction and/or arrangement shall be undertaken at the sole risk, cost and consequences of the person(s)/ entity(ies) concerned, and that the Company shall not be bound by any such interest and/ or arrangement thereby.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable **property bearing Khatha No 1331/38/2** comprised in Survey No 38/2, measuring **43,205 square feet** situated at **Arekere Village, Begur-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** along with building constructed thereon comprising of 2 basement floors and 5 upper floors and bounded on:

East by : Esteem Enclave Apartments;
West by : Bannerghatta Road;
North by : Private Property; and
South by : Esteem Enclave Apartments.

Dated this 24th day of April 2026
For and on behalf of
HAPPIEST HEALTH SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
Parvathy P. B.
Authorized Signatory
Place: BENGALURU

PROVISION OF TRAMWAY TYPE OHE ARRANGEMENT

Tender Notice No. TRD/LMG/4 of 2026-27; Dated: 21-04-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No:** EL-TRD-NFR-LMG-OHE-MOD-56; **Name of work:** Provision of Tramway type OHE arrangement in the L.R. and H.R. Bay & Dismantling of the existing OHE arrangement at H.R. Bay in connection with the Extension of H.R. Bay in Guwahati diesel Trip shed. Advertised Value: ₹1,02,70,814.83; Earnest Money: ₹2,05,400.00. **E-tenders will be closed at** 15:30 hrs. on 14-05-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender is available on website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. DEE/TRD/Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. PROJECT-SWR-TL-CMY_30MVA Dated : 18-04-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Design, Supply, Construction, Testing and Commissioning of : **(i)** 1 No. of 66kV Terminal Bay at 220/66kV Chintamani Sub-station **(ii)** 66 kV 630Sqmm Single Circuit UG Cable from 66kV/11KV Chintamani S/S to 220/66kV Chintamani Substation for a route length of 0.030 km. **(iii)** 66kV line from 66kV Chintamani S/S to 220kV Chintamani Sub-station for a route length of 0.150 km.	**Rs. 2,55,81,085.46**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 14-05-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Project
PUB/53/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Bengaluru**

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

---

Govt. of Jharkhand Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-833672. Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice
Tender reference no.: 05/JREDA/SHMLS/RC/26-27
Dated: 21.04.2026

1	Name of the work	Rate Contract for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning including 5 years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of 60 W LED based solar High Mast Lightning systems (SHMLS) including Remote Monitoring System (RMS) & Global Positioning System (GPS) with Lithium Ferro Phosphate Battery on Turnkey basis across the state of Jharkhand.
2	Estimated Project cost (Rs.)	50,00,00,000/- inclusive GST
3	Period of Completion	04 (Four) Months
4	Contract Period from the date of ITC	05 (Five) Years
5	Date of publication of NIT on website: http:// jharkhandtenders.gov.in	30.04.2026 (Thursday)
6	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	25.05.2026 (Monday) up to 05:00 PM
7	Submission of Bid fee and EMD through Online Via SBI Payment Gateway of Jharkhand Tenders.	25.05.2026 (Monday) up to 05:00 PM
8	Technical Bid Opening Date	28.05.2026 (Thursday) at to 03:00 PM.
9	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA) 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi- 833672 (Jharkhand)
10	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/67/61/7903935514
11	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/67/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com

PR.NO.378211 Energy(26-27):D **Sd Director, JREDA**

Govt. of Jharkhand, Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002. Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice

Tender reference no.: 02/JREDA/GCRT/RC/26-27 Dated 21.04.2026

Online bids are invited for "Rate Contract for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants of different capacities including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis on Government Buildings anywhere in the state of Jharkhand (JREDA)". The details are as follows:

1	Name of the work	Rate Contract for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants of different capacities including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis on Government Buildings anywhere in the state of Jharkhand
2	Tentative quantity (MWp)	10 MWp
3	Completion of work	04 (Four) Months
4	Period of contract	05 (Five) Years
5	Date of publication of NIT on website: http:// jharkhandtenders.gov.in	28.04.2026 (Tuesday)
6	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	25.05.2026 (Monday) up to 05:00 PM
7	Submission of Bid fee and EMD through Online Via SBI Payment Gateway of Jharkhand Tenders.	25.05.2026 (Monday) up to 05:00 PM
8	Technical Bid Opening Date	28.05.2026 (Thursday) at to 03:30 PM.
9	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency(JREDA) 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)
10	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/67/61/9570086777
11	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/67/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com

Sd/
Director, JREDA,
PR 378221 Energy(26-27)#D

Govt. of Jharkhand
Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice
Tender Reference No.: 07/JREDA/GCRT/RD/26-27
Dated: 21.04.2026

1	Name of the work	Rate Contract for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants of different capacities including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis on Government Residential Buildings anywhere in the state of Jharkhand.
2	Period of contract	05 (Five) Years
3	Time of completion	04 (Four) Months
4	Date of publication of NIT on website:http:// jharkhandtenders.gov.in	30.04.2026 (Thursday)
5	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	25.05.2026 (Monday) upto 05:00 PM
6	Submission of original copies of Bid fee &EMD through Online via SBI Payment Gateway of Jharkhand Tenders	25.05.2026 (Monday) upto 05:00 PM
7	Technical Bid Opening Date	28.05.2026 (Thursday) at 3.00 P.M.
8	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director,Jharkhand Renewable Energy DevelopmentAgency(JREDA) 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)
9	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/61/7004806449
10	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: http:// jharkhandtenders.gov.in_& www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com

Sd/-
Director
JREDA, Ranchi
PR 378224 Energy(26-27).D

Govt. of Jharkhand
Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002. Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice
Tender Reference No.: 04/JREDA/SPV/SSLS(LED)/26-27
Dated: 21.04.2026

1	Name of the work	Rate Contract for the work of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning including 5 years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of 20W/30W/40W White LED based Solar Street Lighting Systems (SSLS) with Lithium Ferro Phosphate Battery including Remote Monitoring Systems (RMS) under Solar Photovoltaic Programme on Turnkey basis across the state of Jharkhand (JREDA)
2	Period of contract	05 (Five) Years
3	Time of completion	04 (Four) Months
4	Date of publication of NIT on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in	30.04.2026 (Thursday)
5	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	25.05.2026 (Monday) upto 05:00 PM
6	Submission of original copies of Bid fee &EMD through Online via SBI Payment Gateway of Jharkhand Tenders	25.05.2026 (Monday) upto 05:00 PM
7	Technical Bid Opening Date	28.05.2026 (Thursday) at 3.00 P.M.
8	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director,Jharkhand Renewable Energy DevelopmentAgency(JREDA) 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda,Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)
9	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/61/7004806449
10	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: http:// jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com

Sd/-
Director
JREDA, Ranchi
PR 378217 Energy(26-27).D

Govt. of Jharkhand, Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002. Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice

Tender reference no.: 08/JREDA/GCRT/CMCO/26-27 Dated 21.04.2026

Online bids are invited for "Rate Contract for Selection of Agencies for CMCO of installed Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plants for 05 (Five) Years including replacement of PCUs and Batteries and other components as and where required basis at Various Districts in the State The details are as follows:

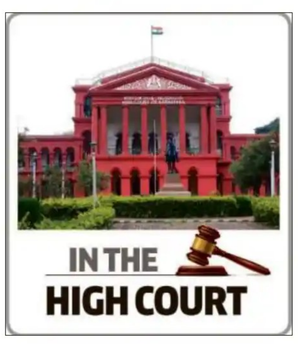
1	Name of the work	Rate Contract for Selection of Agencies for CMCO of installed Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plants for 05 (Five) Years including replacement of PCUs and Batteries and other components as and where required basis at Various Districts in the State
2	Tentative quantity (MWp)	**06 MWp**
3	Completion of work	**04 (Four) Months**
4	Period of contract	**05 (Five) Years**
5	Date of publication of NITon website: http:// jharkhandtenders.gov.in	**28.04.2026 (Tuesday)**
6	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	**25.05.2026 (Monday) up to 05:00 PM**
7	Submission of Bid fee and EMD through Online Via SBI Payment Gateway of Jharkhand Tenders.	**25.05.2026 (Monday) up to 05:00 PM**
8	Technical Bid Opening Date	**28.05.2026 (Thursday) at to 04:00 PM.**
9	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency(JREDA) 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)
10	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/67/61/9570086777
11	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/67/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com**. Further details can be seen on website:** http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in **&** www.jreda.com

Sd/
Director, JREDA
PR 378223 Energy(26-27)#D

Rs 500 bet: High Court stays registration of FIR against HM

BENGALURU, DHNS



The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed a special court's order directing registration of a First Information Report (FIR) against Home Minister G Parameshwara and Tumakuru Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shubha Kalyan for allegedly indulging in a Rs 500 bet during a Kabaddi competition held in Tumakuru.

Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav passed this interim order, observing that there is a lack of mens rea (criminal intent) in the conduct of the home minister.

On April 21, a special court for cases involving elected representatives had ordered an investigation based on a private complaint filed by one H R Nagabhushan.

The statement made by Parameshwara was aired on local TV channels, saying, "I lost Rs 500. We both, the DC and I, had a bet and I lost Rs 500." The Kabaddi match reportedly was held in October 2025.

The counsel, representing Parameshwara, submitted that the special court was required to call for a police report before acting upon a private complaint.

The submission by the police officer was to be recorded before directing the registration of an FIR, the counsel said.

The private complainant had approached the special court after the police refused to entertain the complaint, the counsel said.

The counsel representing the private complainant argued that under the BNSS, a police report would only be required in a private complaint against a public servant who was discharging his duty.

The special court had recorded a finding that a prior sanction from the respective competitive authorities is not necessary since the offences alleged against the home minister and the deputy commissioner do not appear to come within the purview of the discharge of their official functions.

Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav observed that, prima facie the acts alleged lack mens rea.

"It must be noticed that the context in which the alleged offence is made out prima facie is lacking in mens rea even if it is submitted that there is some act which is in the nature of the offence. In light of the contention raised regarding non-adherence of the procedure under 175 (3) of calling upon the police for their submission, which is a procedure incorporated under the BNSS, 2023 and absence of following of such procedure, which is made out from perusal of the order, the case is made out to consider the interim prayer. Accordingly, there would be a stay of further proceedings and an order dated April 21, 2026, till the next date," the court said, while adjourning the matter.

Disclosure of disqualification must in local poll affidavits

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state election commission (SEC) has mandated that candidates contesting local body elections must now declare whether they have been disqualified under any law governing panchayats, municipalities, corporations or the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act.

Candidates must spell out details of such disqualification and its duration, according to an SEC notification amending nomination rules for local body elections.

The new rules also require candidates to state in a sworn affidavit that they have not been disqualified.

Candidates filing nominations for local body polls already had to submit a sworn affidavit disclosing their criminal background, past convictions and sentences, assets and liabilties (including those of their family members), bank deposits, investments, income tax, educational qualifications, occupation and so on.

The amended rules have kicked in ahead of pending elections to gram panchayats, zilla panchayats (ZP, taluk panchayats (TP) and five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The ZP-TP elections have not been held since 2021. Also, the Bengaluru civic body polls are pending since 2020.

94,000 GP seats

Karnataka has 94,081 gram panchayat seats across all districts, according to multiple notifications issued by the rural development & panchayat raj (RDPR) department. Belagavi (8,413) alone accounts for nearly 9% of all seats.

Belagavi is followed by Tumakuru (5,338), Kalaburagi (4,429), Mysuru (4,317) and Vijayapura (3,949). These five districts have nearly 28% of all gram panchayat seats. Bengaluru Urban has 2,047 seats.

The state has 5,943 gram panchayats whose term ended in January and February.

Elections to gram panchayats may not be announced till after the ongoing census houselisting, which is slated to end on May 15.

R.E.S. POLYTECHNIC
Estd: 1986 - Recognised by Govt. of Karnataka & AICTE
10th Pass / What Next ???
JOIN DIPLOMA IN: ♦ Computer Science ♦ IS ♦ Civil ♦ Mechanical ♦ Automobile ♦ Electrical ♦ Electronics ♦ Fashion Tech ♦ Commerce (CP)
After Diploma can join JOB / 2nd year Engg OR Any Degree through LATERAL ENTRY QUOTA
PUC Pass Join 2 yrs Diploma Engineering
PUC Fail Join 3 yrs Diploma Engineering
RES:26701
EVENING / WEEKEND CLASSES
Available for working Professionals to EE
5, Sunkadakatte, Magadi Road, Hegganahalli Cross, B-91
Call: Secretary-99166 46466 / Principal-9916639466

HOLY ANGEL'S HIGH SCHOOL
Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 104
TOPPERS OF SSLC EXAMINATION - 2026
ARYAN C 97.12% | KULSOOM KAMAL 97.12% | NIVAS S B 97.12%
GANESH Y E 96.48% | P R CHIRAG 96.32% | VANDHANA R K 96.16% | DEEPIKA S 95.04% | PRATIGYA JAIN 94.88% | S ABINAYA 94.72% | CHINMAYEE D 94.56%
LIKHITHA 94.56% | VENYA Y 94.24% | TANMAYA R 94.08% | DISHA C 93.76% | PRATHIKSHA P 93.6% | RAHUL CHOUDHARY 93.6% | CHITRA DEEPAK 93.28%
TANUSHREE S 93.28% | YADUNANDAN G P 93.28% | RAJESHWARI R 92.96% | CHARMI D 92.16% | JAYASURYA N 92.16% | LIKITA S 92.16% | BHOOMIKA G 92%
GEETHA BHAVANI N 92% | MOHITH YADAV R 92% | IMPANA G 91.36% | VAMSHIKA B 91.36% | ATHREYA L J 91.2% | BINDU D 91.2% | MANISHA Y S GOWDA 91.2%
SHREYA SUNIL 90.88% | PUNITH D N 90.72% | TARUN P 90.72% | M KANISHK 90.56% | SAINAYANA NARAGUND 90.4% | THANMAI C 90.4% | PAVAN KUMAR M 90.24%

Late B.M.Sreenivasaiah Founder
B.M.S. PRE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
'A' Grade Awarded by PU Board
Late B.S.Narayan Former Donor Trustee
College toppers bring laurels with outstanding Academic Achievement
The Management, Principal and Faculty members of BMS PU COLLEGE FOR WOMEN proudly congratulate the College Toppers for their Exceptional performance in II PUC BOARD EXAMINATION...
TOPPERS OF II PUC ANNUAL EXAMINATION MARCH - 2026
Ms. Yamuna Yadav — Arts (593/600) State 4th Rank
Ms. Harshitha K Gowda — Commerce (596/600) State 5th Rank
Ms. Akshatha Inamdar — Commerce (594/600) State 7th Rank
Ms. Mary Harshitha — Commerce (593/600) State 8th Rank
Ms. Sanjana BM — Commerce (592/600) State 9th Rank
Ms. Meghana H K — Commerce (591/600) State 10th Rank
Ms. Yashaswini J — Science (586/600) Science Topper of College
The Institution celebrates the remarkable achievement of toppers , whose dedication, perseverance and Academic Excellence have brought immense pride to the College. The achievement stands as a testimony to the college's commitment to providing quality education fostering academic brilliance , and nurturing future leaders
2026 ADMISSIONS OPEN
ADMISSION FREE For 95% and above in 10th Std
MERITORIOUS SCHOLARSHIP for 85% and above in 10th Std
COURSES OFFERED :
SCIENCE ❖ P.C.M.B. (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology) ❖ P.C.M.E. (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Electronics) ❖ P.C.M.Cs.(Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science)
COMMERCE ❖ H.E.B.A. (History, Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy) ❖ S.E.B.A. (Statistics, Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy) ❖ M.E.B.A. (Basic Maths, Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy) ❖ M.S.B.A. (Basic Maths, Statistics, Business Studies, Accountancy) ❖ C.S.B.A. (Computer Science, Statistics, Business Studies, Accountancy)
ARTS ❖ H.E.P.S. (History, Economics, Political Science, Sociology) ❖ H.E.P.P. (History, Economics, Political Science, Psychology)
CONTACT: BUGLE ROCK ROAD, BASAVANAGUDI, BENGALURU 560 004
Ph: 91-80-26607833 | 7338367755 | 7338247755 | 9538137661
email: principalbmspucollege@gmail.com, Website: www.bmspucw.ac.in
NOTE : WE HAVE NO BRANCHES

DH Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE
This is to inform that **"Pelican Gardens"** project of **"M/s Jakkur Views Developers Private Limited"** with capacity **98 KLD** situated at **Sy No. 18/1, 18/6B, 18/7, & Site No.388/A and 388/B** of Jakkur Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, karnataka has been accorded with Environmental Clearance EC **Identification No. EC25C3801KA5816375N. File No. SEIAA 313 CON 2025, Dated:31-01-2026.** received from **State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Karnataka.**
Copy of the said Environmental Clearance is available with the **Ministry of Environmental, forest and Climate Change (IA Division).** at **Website: https://parivesh.nic.in**

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE
This is to inform that the **"The Seven" project of M/s Nestled Haven Realty Private Limited,** with an STP capacity of **150 KLD,** located at Sy. Nos. 60/1 (Old No. 3612). **PID No. 5I-39-60/1, Ward No. 154.** at 2nd Cross. Thyagarajanagar, Bangalore Urban District, Karnataka, has been accorded Environmental Clearance.
The Environmental Clearance has been granted vide **EC Identification No. EC25C3801KA5745263N, File No. SEIAA 281 CON 2025, Dated : 14/01/2026,** issued by the **State Level Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Karnataka.**
A copy of the said Environmental Clearance is available on the website of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (IA Division)** at: **https://parivesh.nic.in**

PUBLIC NOTICE
To Place your Classified Ads Contact
9731810277

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Graphic Designers

REQUIRED GRAPHIC Designer- Photoshop/ Corel Draw/ Illustrator Experience 1 Year or above in around Rajajinagar. Contact: 9108458798/ 9845579620

HRD & Admin

WANTED FEMALE Office Assistant Any Degree Knowing Tally, Fluent In English, Kannada, Hindi Around Rajajinagar Contact: 9108458798/ 9845579620

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Industrial & Factory

Tumkur Road

KIADB CONVERTED: Prime Industrial Land for sale. 50,000 sqft in Vasanthanrasapura Industrial area situated in NH4, Tumkur Road, East facing. Rate 2500/- psqft Negotialbe. Serious buyers contact:- Arif Khan:- 9845021260.

Sites

Ramanagar

SALE SITE EAST 30X40 Survey No-192 BANNIKOPPA VILLAGE BIDADI HOBLI TQ: RAMANAGAR Clear Tittles. Call: 9886019240/ 080-26603673

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

BUSINESS

Business Offers

Machinery & Tools

FURNITURE MANUFACTURING Machineries For Sale Unit is in Tumkur KIADB Shed Contact Owner: 9845048193/ 9972417196

A JAIN INSTITUTION
ADARSH GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS
5th Main, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 18 | www.agieducation.org
Congratulations to II PU Toppers 2026
Management, Principal and Staff
KOMAL M Commerce - 98.66% State 9th Rank
MEHAR KHAN 97.8% Commerce | POOJA M PUROHITH 97.1% Commerce | VIDHAN JAIN 96.8% Commerce | VEDIKA 96.6% Science | VASUNDHARA 96.5% Commerce | SONU S 96% Commerce
SHANKAR M 97 Science
ADMISSIONS OPEN 2026
PUC COMMERCE: MSBA | SEBA | CsSBA | HEBA | CsEBA
PUC SCIENCE: PCMB | PCMCs | PCME With CET / NEET / JEE
DEGREE COURSES: BBA | BCA Generative AI | BCOM | BA | BSC
PG COURSES: MBA Dual Specialization | MCOM
EVENING COLLEGE: PUC | BCOM | MCOM
A GRADE REACCREDITED IN 3rd CYCLE NAAC
+91 74067 40011/22
www.agieducation.org

Vasavi Educational Trust
V.E.T.B.V.L.POLYTECHNIC
(Recognised by Collegiate & Directorate of Technical Education, Govt. of Karnataka, Approved by AICTE, New Delhi)
14th Main, 2nd Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore - 560 078.
ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2026
Diploma Programs : Eligibility : Pass in SSLC / X / Equivalent exams
Computer Science & Engineering - CS | Commercial Practice - CP | Information Science & Engineering - IS | Apparel Design & Fabrication Technology - FT
➢Qualified & experienced teaching faculty ➢Well established Laboratories ➢Seminars & Workshops ➢Well Stocked Library & Digital Library ➢Career Guidance & Placement assistance ➢MOU with industries & corporates
➢Preference to SC/ST students in admissions ➢Scholarships to meritorius students ➢Active Students Clubs ➢Sports facilities viz., Temperature Controlled Swimming Pool, Turf outdoor ground, Gym ➢Interactive smart boards in classrooms
Dr. MANANDI N.SURESH Hon.Secretary | B.S.ARUN KUMAR President
Contact office for : Prospectus & admission formalities
Ph : 080-2658 6808 / 2658 4760 / 95137 04801
www.vetbvlpolytechnic.edu.in

Vasavi Educational Trust
V.E.T.MANANDI COMPOSITE P.U COLLEGE
(Recognised by Govt. of Karnataka, Graded 'A' by P.U. Board)
14th Main, 2nd Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore - 560 078.
ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2026
Combinations :
Science - PCMB, PCMCSc, PCME
Commerce - HEBA, EBACSc, SEBA
➢Qualified & experienced teaching faculty ➢Well established Laboratories ➢Seminars & Workshops ➢Well Stocked Library & Digital Library ➢Preference to SC/ST students in admissions
➢Scholarships to meritorius students ➢Active Students Clubs ➢Sports facilities viz., Temperature Controlled Swimming Pool, Turf outdoor ground, Gym ➢Interactive smart boards in classrooms
Dr.(h.c)MANANDI N.SURESH Hon.Secretary | B.S.ARUN KUMAR President
Contact office for : Prospectus & admission formalities
Ph : 080-2658 6808 / 2658 4760 / 82176 40532
www.vetpucollege.edu.in

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **CHERUVU NAGAMANI,** residing at No.20, Laxmi Nivas, 6th Cross, Manorayanapalya, R.T Nagar Post, Bangalore – 560032, have changed my name to **PALERU NAGAMANI** vide affidavit dated 18-04-2026 sworn before notary Sivakumara M N, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **PALERU NAGAMANI** only.

I, ANURADHA DIXIT, Residing at building No - 56, 3rd Floor, Post office Road, Channasandra Bengaluru -560067, have changed my Name to ANURADHA SHUKLA, vide Affidavit dated 23-04-2026, sworn before Notary Veena. J, Bengaluru.

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, **Vanitha P,** R/at 61, 2nd Cross, Manjunatha Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-16 have lost my **Original GIFT Deed House Document, Document No./ Identification: KRI-1-0424/2014-15.** While in house shifting. If found please contact: **9742831703**

BUSINESS

Business Offers

Machinery & Tools

DH Classifieds More value, more impact | ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
EDUCATION
Book your Educational Related Ads in DH All Karnataka + Prajavani Bengaluru City
*Conditions apply
www.dhclassifieds.com
BOOK NOW
For more details contact:
+91 9731810277 | +91 9886213331
+91 9845114560 | +91 9900428036

Sulakshmi Silks Presents Karnataka's Biggest
5th SEERE UTSAVA
5ನೇ ಸೀರೆ ಉತ್ಸವ
A Celebration of Elegance
60% OFF ON PURE MYSORE CREPE SILK SAREES
GRAND LUCKY DIP DRAW !
WIN A CHANCE TO TIRUPATHI
1st 10 Winners: 1st Break Suprabatha Darshana
2nd 10 Winners: Win Tirupathi 2nd Break Darshana
3rd 10 winners: Win a Pure Mysore Crepe Silk Saree
ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ, ಅದೃಷ್ಟದ ಉಡುಗೊರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗೆಲ್ಲಿ !
Date: 21st April - 25th April 2026
Address: Terige Bhavana, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore
Call: 99727 18898 | 96631 27606

Drilling of 6½ Robo Borewell Upto 1500ft
VIJAYALAKSHMI BOREWELL - BANGALORE
94481-71416

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru

Last rank for Kalaburagi: BJP trolls Priyank Kharge

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Opposition BJP criticised Information Technology Minister Priyank Kharge after Kalaburagi district, which he represents, finished last in the SSLC examination-1, the results of which were announced Thursday.

Kalaburagi had the lowest pass percentage at 85.06%. However, this is a big jump from 56.89% last year.

"A flawless record in failure! It seems the 'noble work' of the in-charge minister only happens in press conferences and Twitter threads. If he spent half as much time developing Kalaburagi as he does picking fights on social media, the children of his district wouldn't be trailing behind the entire state," the BJP said in a tweet.

"Being 'in charge' is supposed to mean responsibility, not round-the-clock social media activity," it said.

Priyank hit back and asked the BJP not to 'insult' the students of Kalaburagi.

"If you have a problem, criticise me. Why are you ridiculing the children of Kalaburagi? The district's pass percentage may be 85%. This time, the results are better than the previous academic year, both in the state and in Kalaburagi district," Priyank pointed out.

"Is the BJP branding even the children of BJP leaders and workers in Kalaburagi district as 'dullards'?" he asked.

Visually impaired student 'wrongfully' marked absent for social science

SIRSI (UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT), DHNS: The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board's negligence has left a specially abled student's future in lurch. Liza Khanam of Union High School, Sirsi, a visually impaired girl who secured top marks in five subjects, was marked as absent for Social Science subject in the marks card.

Liza had appeared for all six papers in the SSLC exams held in April. Her scores in the five subjects read: First language Urdu (124 marks), Kannada (100), English (92), Economics (98) and political science (92).

But the Board has been marked absent despite appearing for the Social Science paper.

Liza's parents have expressed anguish against the Board for the lapse. They have urged the competent authority to provide justice to their daughter by fixing the technical problem.

Meanwhile, Sirsi BEO Nagaraj Naik told *DH* that the student in question has appeared for the exam and the records for the same have been submitted to the DDPI office.

"The process to submit the records to the Board is underway. The problem will be fixed soon," the BEO said.

With 93.97% pass, govt schools show they are second to none

Private, aided schools too go up a few notches

BENGALURU DHNS:

Students of government schools have performed well in the SSLC examination-1 this year by improving the results by nearly 16% as against the pass percentage recorded last year.

This year, a total of 3,06,341 students appeared for the exams from government schools, of which 2,87,878 passed, recording an overall pass percentage of 93.97 as against 77.15 recorded last year from all three exams.

Even the number of government schools securing 100% results has increased this year. In 2024-25 the number of government schools with 100% results was 766 and the same has increased to 2,393 this year. Interestingly, there are no government schools with 0% results.

Aided schools too have improved a lot this time. Last year, the pass percentage of aided schools was 75.04 and the same has increased to 92.44 this year.

When it comes to schools with 100% results, 824 aided schools have managed to achieve the feat as against 145 last year. The number of schools with zero result has come down from eight last year to five this year.

The performance of unaided schools has also improved with students achieving 95.4% pass as against 87.31% last year. A total of 2,959 private unaided schools secured 100% results and 22 schools showed zero results.

MADHU BANGARAPPA
School Education Minister

"All government schools which have achieved 100% results will put banners outside their premises to let the public know that even government schools provide quality education. I request parents to admit their children to government schools

Teachers felicitate Prarthana Nagappa Biradar-Patil, a student of government high school (Kannada medium) from Katageri in Athani taluk of Belagavi district, who secured cent percent marks in SSLC exam, on Thursday.

Where they stand

School type	Students appeared	Students passed	Percentage
Govt	3,06,341	2,87.878	93.97
Aided	1,90,032	1,75,670	92.44
Unaided	2,73,836	2,61,246	95.40

Athani govt school girl scores perfect 625

ATHANI (BELAGAVI DISTRICT), DHNS: A government school student from Katageri village in Athani taluk, Belagavi district, has emerged as joint topper in the SSLC exams for 2025-26.

Daughter of Nagappa Biradar-Patil, a school teacher and Vinoda, a homemaker, Prarthana Patil aced the exam securing 625/625 marks, scoring a centum in all six subjects.

A student of government high school in Katageri village, Prarthana showed that government schools are no less than the best of private institutions when it comes to quality of education and competitiveness.

"I was expecting 620 marks, but 625 marks came as surprise. My achievement shows that even govt school students in rural areas can fare well with sincere efforts and dedication. I want to take up science stream in PUC and prepare for NEET. I aspire to become a doctor and crack UPSC exams," a beaming Prarthana Patil told *DH*.

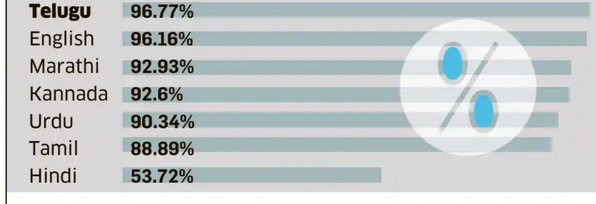
Rural kids come up trumps

There is a substantial increase in the pass percentage of rural students over urban students. Rural students have outperformed their urban counterparts with 94.8% results. Urban students managed to secure 93.67%. Last year, urban students had outperformed their rural counterparts.

Rural students		Urban students	
Wrote	Passed	Wrote	Passed
4,42,280	4,19,261	3,27,929	3,05,533

Medium-wise results

Telugu medium students have secured highest pass percentage compared to six other mediums, including Kannada, English, Urdu and Hindi.



Grade-wise results

This year a total of **68,207 (9.41%) students secured 'A+' grade** by scoring between 90 and 100%. Under 'A' grade (80 to 89%), there are over 1,30,403 (17.99%) students. **'B+' grade (70 to 79%)** has been secured by 1,40,963 (19.45%) students, 'B' grade (60 to 69%) by 1,42,645 (19.68%) and 'C+' (50 to 59%) grade is scored by 1,28,722 (17.76%). A total of 1,13,854 students (15.71%) secured 'C' grade (35 to 49%).

Eves on TOP AGAIN

Continuing the trend, girls outshined boys this year too with overall pass percentage of 96.18 against 91.94 by boys. Last year, girls got 85.70% and boys 74.25% results. However, compared to last year, the boys' pass percentage has shown a sharp increase of 17.69%, while girls' pass percentage has increased by 10.48%.

Girls who wrote exam	Boys who wrote exam
3,92,922	3,77,287
Girls who passed	Boys who passed
3,77,922	3,46,872

Highest cent percent score in Hindi

This year 31,255 students secured cent percent (100/100) in third language Hindi, highest among all the subjects. This is followed by 10,686 in social sciences, first language Kannada 10,341, second language Kannada 7,140 and 2,678 in second language English.

Students with special needs

A total of 4,099 children with special needs appeared for the exams. Of these, 3,621 (88%) managed to pass. This includes 769 with intellectual disability, 549 visually impaired, 823 hearing impaired, 795 with locomotor disability, 71 with cerebral palsy and 132 multiple disabilities.

No fee for exam-2

The KSEAB has announced fee waiver for SSLC annual exam-2 for those who failed in exam-1.

However, students who want to improve their scores and appear for the exam will have to pay.

In addition, following the 3rd language grading controversy, students who failed in third language subjects and want to improve their scores have also been given a fee waiver. KSEAB announced that, to improve results in annual exam-2, special coaching will be conducted for students in all schools.

Dates to remember

APRIL 23 TO 26
Apply for scanned copies of answer scripts

APRIL 27 TO 28
Make payment for scanned copies

APRIL 28 TO MAY 4
Apply for revaluation and retotalling

Residential schools

The residential schools under the Directorate of Minorities have recorded 98.06% results. Out of 3,462 students who appeared for the examination across 84 residential schools, a total 3,395 have passed.

KK districts SSLC fact file

Districts	Appeared	Pass	Percentage **2026** (2025)	Increase in % compared to last year
Yadgir	14,411	13,242	**91.89** (62.08)	29.81
Kalaburgi	37,352	31,770	**85.06** (56.89)	28.17
Koppal	21,270	19,802	**93.1** (78.93)	14.17
Raichur	27,757	26,205	**94.41** (75)	19.41
Bidar	23,047	21,242	**92.18** (73.35)	18.83
Vijayanagara	18,817	18,138	**96.39** (86.75)	9.64
Ballari	18,995	17,732	**93.36** (79.30)	14.06

Kalyana K'taka districts improve performance

Pass percentage goes up by 19.6% over last year

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kalyana Karnataka districts have performed well in the SSLC examination-1, the results of which were announced on Thursday.

The average pass percentage of seven districts of KK region is 91.6%, which is an increase of 19.6%, compared to last year.

Last year, Yadgir was in 34th position by securing a pass percentage of 62.08. This year, it has jumped to 31st position with a pass percentage of 91.89.

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa appreciated the efforts of teachers, students, officials and also elected representatives.

He said, "I must thank legislators from all parties who have contributed to improve the quality of education in Kalyana Karnataka districts. In some districts, the legislators not only diverted 25% of their (MLA-Local Area Development) funds, but also deployed guest teachers to ensure quality teaching".

"Ranking wise, the districts may look poor, but analysing the improvement in the results shows the real achievement," the minister added.

Students are all smiles after checking their results on a phone in Kalaburagi on Thursday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

Rankings of many south K'taka dists plummet

Some of the districts which were in the top of the ranking last year have gone to the bottom this year. Bengaluru South which was in 17th position last year has gone down to 32nd position. Similarly, Kolar's ranking went down to 13th from 6th, Shivamogga to 9th from 5th, Chikkaballapur to 33rd from 28th and Chikkamagaluru to 17th from 11th.

Interestingly, some districts have improved their ranking. Dharwad rose to 12th rank from 23rd, Davanagere to 19th from 27th, Raichur to 21st from 30th, Chitradurga to 27th from 32nd, Haveri to 7th from 18th and Mandya to 5th from 12th.

No negative effect of switch from marks to grades for 3rd lang, U turn

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government's earlier decision to award grades instead of marks for third language had created controversy with the stakeholders, including schools, teachers and students opposing it.

This forced the government to retain the existing marks system, following the court order.

But the results of SSLC exams announced on Thursday turned out to be a surprise as the number of students failing in third language subjects has reduced drastically, including Hindi.

As per data shared by KSEAB, last year, a total of 83,088 students failed in third language alone, highest in Hindi (75,792).

Surprisingly, this year, the number of students who failed in Hindi reduced to 9,481 and students who failed in third languages reduced to 10,963.

While announcing the switch from marks to grade system for third language subjects, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa had mentioned that it was being done to reduce pressure on children.

On Thursday, the minister reiterated that, saying, "It was a decision taken to reduce pressure on children. I will share more details on this in a couple of days with a scientific study report". The result sheet conforms to this.

Third language in 2026

Language	Students	Pass no
Arabic	317	317
English	28,497	27,317
Hindi	7,02,009	6,92,528
Hindi (NCERT)	4,742	4,736
Kannada	10,237	9,948
Konkani	34	34
Sanskrit	5,059	5,059
Tulu	788	787
Urdu	5,163	5,157
Marathi	03	03

Pass marks reduction didn't help many

Though the department reduced the pass marks from 35 to 33, not many students benefited from it.

As per data, 1,532 students have passed, scoring between 33 and 35 marks.

"People criticised me when we implemented this. But they should understand that it was one of the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission," Madhu said.

A sports buff, topper Dhanush focused more as exams neared

MYSURU, DHNS: Sharing his joy, Dhanush Sudhir Mysore who emerged as one of the toppers in state by securing 625/625 said, "I did well in exams and I was confident of getting these results. All the credit goes to my school and tuition teachers".

Dhanush a resident of Malleswaram in Bengaluru, said, in the beginning he was not serious about studies.

"As I had tro attend both school and tuitions, I could not study much in the beginning. As I like sports a lot, I used to study in between playing cricket, chess and tennis. But when exams neared, I started studying seriously," he said. Dhanush will take up science in PUC as he wants to study engineering.

Dhanush Sudhir, one of the state toppers, celebrates with his parents in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Topper from Manvi chases IIT dream

MANVI (RAICHUR DISTRICT), DHNS

The SSLC exam results announced on Thursday have thrown up surprises. Students from unconventional areas have done exceptionally well. Sukhdev Kattimani, a student of BVR High School in Manvi, Raichur district, has topped the SSLC exam with 625/625 marks.

Sukhdev, son of a local college lecturer Parashuram Kattimani, attributed his success to the guidance of teachers and blessings of his parents and elders, and of course, dedication and systematic and focused study. "I used to study 3 to 4 hours daily. I was expecting good marks. I am overwhelmed to know that I have scored a perfect 625. I have started preparing for the IIT JEE exam," said Sukhdev, who is chasing his IIT dreams.

Sukhdev Kattimani is offered sweets by his mother and grandmother.

The BVR school management and teachers celebrated the feat by distributing sweets.

KCET: Staff turn saviours for candidates reaching wrong centres

Made to write exams there itself or given ride to right centres

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) for admission to professional courses was held smoothly across the state on day one, on Thursday.

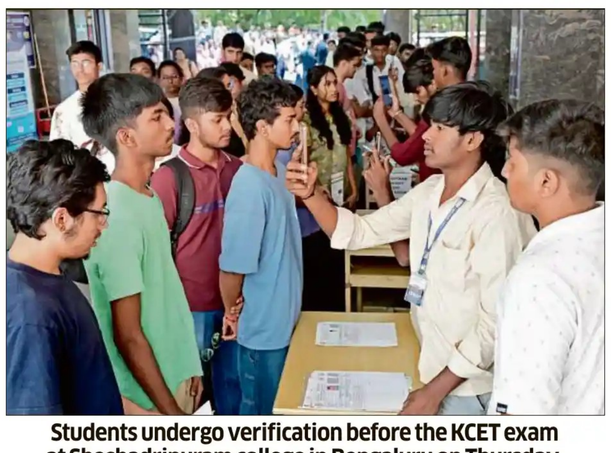
According to a press statement by Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) executive director H Prasanna, 96% of the total registered candidates attended the physics and chemistry examinations held across 745 centres in the state.

The officer appreciated the staffers for successfully guiding the candidates who were struggling at the last minute without hall tickets and also those who had gone to the wrong examination centres, ensuring that they appeared for the exam.

"A candidate named Anvi Sojan, who was supposed to write the exam at the BGS PU College in Mahalakshmi Layout in Bengaluru, had mistakenly gone to BGS Global College near Kengeri. Since returning to the Mahalakshmi Layout centre would have caused a delay, special arrangements were made for the candidate to write the exam at BGS Global College," Prasanna said.

In another such instance, a candidate named Chinmayi, who was supposed to write the exam at a college in Sagar, had mistakenly gone to Science Field College in Shivamogga.

Once the matter was brought to his notice, the college principal made arrangements for the candidate to travel to Sagar in the invigilator's vehicle, helping the candidate reach in time for the exam, the officer said.



Students undergo verification before the KCET exam at Sheshadripuram college in Bengaluru on Thursday. As much as 96% of the students wrote the exam on day one at 745 centres in state. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

At the district level, the exams were monitored through CCTV cameras under the leadership of the respective deputy commissioners and the zilla panchayat CEOs.

Command centre

At the command centre set up in the KEA office in Bengaluru, CCTV camera footage from examination centres in Bengaluru and Kalaburagi districts were reviewed and monitored.

The Authority even allowed those who applied Wednesday to write the exam on Thursday.

Late applications

"More than 100 candidates, who had not applied earlier due to various family reasons, such as illness, inability to pay the prescribed fees, had submitted their applications late and appeared for it on Thursday."

Even on Wednesday, as many as 13 candidates applied and wrote the exam on Thursday.

Hall ticket issues

"Not only that, 15 candidates who called up KEA helpline at 9.30 am on Thursday, saying they were unable to download their hall tickets because they did not have their application numbers, were also assisted in downloading their hall tickets and allowed to write the exam," the officer said.

CM should intervene to stop Cong bickering, say his aides

Jarkiholi says it's him after Siddu for Ahinda leadership

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a meeting late on Wednesday night, Cabinet colleagues, loyal to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, urged him to be more assertive and speak up on party matters.

Siddaramaiah huddled with ministers H C Mahadevappa, G Parameshwara, B S Suresha (Byrathi), Satish Jarkiholi and Zameer Ahmed Khan, sources said.

"It was like a general check-up. We discussed political developments," Jarkiholi said.

Among the issues discussed was the ongoing infighting involving Muslim leaders over allegations of anti-party activities during the April 9 Davangere South bypoll.

'CM told to intervene'

"Everyone must come on to one platform. There are opposing groups, which will hurt the party. We discussed this. We've asked the CM to intervene. That was everybody's opinion. All of us told him that he must put a stop to all this," Jarkiholi said.

When asked about political developments that are expected after May 4, when results of elections in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and byelections in 2 Assembly segments in Karnataka will be out, he said several matters awaited the party's decision.

"There's a demand for a Cabinet reshuffle. Also, the current confusion within the party needs resolution. A decision is pending on whether or not a new party president (the post currently held by deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar) should be appointed," the minister said.

On the future of the Ahinda (acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits) leadership, Jarkiholi said the baton must be passed on to someone.

"It's Siddaramaiah now. Next, it'll be me and then someone else," he said.

Zameer to meet Muslim clerics

Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan said he will meet Muslim clerics after Friday prayers to resolve differences that have cropped up after the April 9 Davangere South byelection.

"Muslim clerics are unhappy that a candidate from the community wasn't given the Davangere South bypoll ticket. The party has said that a Muslim candidate will be considered during the next general election. I'm meeting clerics after Friday prayers. I've already reached out to 4-5 top clerics. We will resolve all differences," Zameer said.

Triple talaq for Cong, warns cleric

Cleric Abdul Razak warned that Muslims will give Congress 'triple talaq', if the party fails to rescind action taken against MLCs Abdul Jabbar and Naseer Ahmed.

"The action that was initiated against them must be withdrawn. If even one more Muslim leader faces action, we'll hit the streets and give triple talaq to Congress," he said.

No opposition to Gowda's RS renomination: Agrawal

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP national general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agrawal clarified on Thursday that his party has not opposed former prime minister HD Deve Gowda's re-nomination to the Rajya Sabha.

Gowda's term is set to end in June. There is speculation that some BJP leaders are not keen to support the JD(S) patriarch for a second term. Agrawal, who is in charge of the BJP's affairs in Karnataka, said the saffron party has neither decided nor discussed the Rajya Sabha elections. "There's been no opposition from the BJP. In any case, the state unit doesn't get to decide," he said.

"Deve Gowda is a senior and experienced leader. He shares a good relationship with Prime Minister Modi. When discussions on Rajya Sabha elections take place, a decision will be made," Agrawal said.

Agrawal held organisational meetings with the state BJP during the day. He said various issues were discussed, including preparations for the Legislative Council elections slated later this year.

On demands from some quarters that expelled lawmaker Basanagouda Patil Yatnal should be inducted back into the party, Agrawal said: "As far as I know, there's no such demand. He has been expelled for six years and there's currently no proposal before the party has to reinstate him."

Parents allege baby death due to ant bite in hospital

MYSURU, DHNS: Parents suspected medical negligence over death of a newborn in Chaluvamba Hospital in Mysuru and staged a protest near hospital on Thursday. They alleged that the baby died due to alleged ant bites.

A pre-term baby born on April 15 to Neela from Kuvempunagar was treated in NICU of Chaluvamba Hospital due to low birth weight died on April 17. The hospital authorities claimed that baby died due to infection and jaundice. Dean and director of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute K R Dakshayini said the truth will be known after the autopsy.

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, Opposition leader in Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and others stage a protest against AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, in front of Gandhi statue on Vidhana Soudha premises in Bengaluru on Thursday.

BJP demands apology from Kharge over 'terrorist' remark

BENGALURU, DHNS

State BJP leaders on Thursday staged a protest at Vidhana Soudha against AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge over his remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him a "terrorist".

The saffron party demanded his public apology and also urged Congress leader Sonia Gandhi to remove Kharge as the Congress chief and also the leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha.

"Kharge had earlier likened RSS-BJP to poisonous snakes and tried to instigate Muslim community and now he attacked the PM. He apologised after calling Gujaratis as illiterate. Kharge has lowered the dignity of Karnataka too. I demand he seek a public apology," said LOP in Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy.

Opposition leader in Assembly R Ashoka said the remark was an insult to the country as Modi is the elected leader, who took on terrorism and naxalism in the country.

"Modi ji has been honoured with the highest civilian award by more than 25 countries. But Congress is calling him a terrorist," rues state BJP chief B Y Vijayendra.

Anti-SIR convention urges K'taka govt to safeguard voters' rights

Says exercise could be misused to disenfranchise large sections of voters

BENGALURU, DHNS

A broad coalition of organisations and political parties in Karnataka on Thursday issued a 'Karnataka Declaration' opposing the proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, terming it a 'systematic assault on democracy' and warned of statewide protests if implemented without major safeguards.

The declaration was adopted at an anti-SIR convention held at the Freedom Park in Bengaluru, attended by members of various people's movements, civil society groups and opposition parties.

The convention described the SIR process as a "major weapon in a conspiracy designed by anti-constitutional forces to destroy the democratic system," and alleged the exercise could be misused to disenfranchise large sections of voters under the guise of electoral roll purification.

Citing past experiences in Bihar and Bengal, the declaration claimed that the strategy had already influenced electoral outcomes elsewhere. It alleged that the BJP had 'captured Bihar' using similar tactics, and criticised opposition parties for failing to sustain protests over alleged 'vote theft' after the elections.

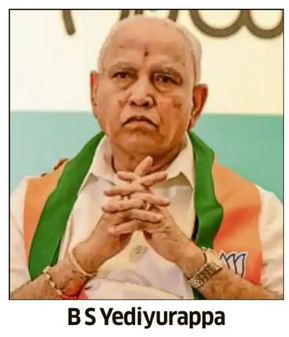
The declaration stated that Karnataka's people stood with West Bengal as 91 lakh names had been removed from voter lists in West Bengal, 34 lakh affected individuals had filed appeals, but authorities had proceeded with the elections without resolving them.

The SIR process has affected 65 million voters across 13 states, and Karnataka could be included in the next phase. But the exercise should be halted until a comprehensive review is held and all related court proceedings are concluded, demanded the convention, also urging the Karnataka government to adopt a six-point strategy to safeguard voters' rights: Increase the SIR process period from three to six months, and similarly extend the appeal window by approaching the judiciary, setting up voter assistance centres, to direct officials to issue residence and identity certificates swiftly, conduct an independent revision of electoral rolls through the State Election Commission instead of relying solely on centrally prepared lists, and mandate gram sabha and ward sabha meetings to publicly review draft voter lists before finalisation.

'Abhimanotsava' to celebrate BSY's 50-year political journey on May 9

Amit Shah likely to inaugurate event; event to draw 10 lakh people

BENGALURU, DHNS



B S Yediyurappa

The state BJP will be hosting 'Abhimanotsava' – a grand celebration to mark former chief minister B S Yediyurappa's five-decade-long political life at Chitradurga on May 9. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to inaugurate the event and felicitate the leader.

Former deputy chief minister and MP Govind Karjol, addressing a press meet said, "The bhoomi pooja will be held at the event venue in Chitradurga on April 26 at 10 am, and state BJP chief B Y Vijayendra, MLAs, MPs and LOPs are invited for the event. Yediyurappa has served the state for 50 years, fought for farmers and marginalised people and the event is to celebrate his life and contributions to the state."

A day ahead of the main event, on May 8 at 6 pm, organisers have planned a grand purapravesha (ceremonial entry) procession for Yediyurappa in Chitradurga, setting the stage for the celebrations.

"Elaborate arrangements are underway, with multiple teams constituted to manage logistics, crowd control and coordination. Heads of mutts, former chief ministers, ministers and leaders from across the political and social spectrum are being invited. Writers, artists, associates and members of the farming community will also participate," added Karjol. Vijayendra said, "People across all sections of society recognise his contributions. This will be a historic and meaningful event."

Taking a dig at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Vijayendra said, "Siddaramaiah had moved to the Congress from JD(S). But Yediyurappa had built the party himself."

To a question, Karjol said Chitradurga was chosen as it was centrally located and accessibe to people from across the state, Karjol also underlined Yediyurappa's role in building the BJP in the state, calling him a "mass leader" who rose through struggles and grassroots mobilisation.

The event expected to draw over 10 lakh people from across Karnataka, will not just be a felicitation programme, but is likely to be show of organisational strength and mass connect ahead of future political battles in the state.

DKS in Delhi, says will meet party leaders

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday said that he would meet Congress top leaders on Friday and submit a detailed report on the party's performance and strategy in the Assam and Tamil Nadu Assembly polls.

Shivakumar, who is also the Congress co-in-charge for the Assam Assembly elections, told reporters that he has prepared a comprehensive report on both states and will present it to the party high command.

The DCM, who has arrived in the national capital, is also scheduled to meet Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday to request the allocation of defence land for improving Bengaluru's infrastructure.

When asked about his other meetings, Shivakumar refused to disclose details, saying, "I don't want to disclose before the media whom I am meeting among the top leaders. I also don't want to speak to the media about my discussions with party leaders on state politics."

On reports of unhappiness among Muslim leaders in Karnataka, Shivakumar clarified that they were not unhappy. He acknowledged that some leaders may have certain grievances, which would be resolved soon. Regarding demands to revoke the suspension of MLC K Abdul Jabbar, Shivakumar said he had not removed him from the party. "I have not removed him. He has only resigned," he added.

DH DECCAN HERALD Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements

Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com or Scan QR code to access booking form

In Loving Memory
Smt. M.B. Rathnamma
M.Sc, M.Phil (UK)
Former HOD - Physics, BMSCW

Twenty years since you left us. Not a single moment passes without your sweet memory. You enlightened and enriched the lives of many during your journey. You are a thing of beauty and joy forever.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY MEMBERS OF FAMILY OF:
Late Shri. M. C. Basavalingaiah, Retd. Chief Engr.;
Dr. M.K.Kokila and Dr. M.Madaiah

SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Ex. Capt. DR. NEENA SETH
02.07.1964 - 24.04.2024

Ex Capt Dr. Neena Seth; MBBS (Rangaraya Medical College Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh) Diploma Nutrition (Annamalai University), DCA, NIIT. Marks in high seventies.

A very beautiful girl with brilliant brains; IQ148/150 genius rated at Command Hospital, IAF Bangalore-560 007 An early achiever in life. She stood 1st Rank in her class, (6 sections of 200 students of 1st Std;1st Rank at Presentation Convent Srinagar, J & K) from Kindergarten to II PUC. Secured nearly 100% in all her subjects, 100% in Maths. A Favourite of her teachers, she was a rank holder in both SSLC & PUC. She secured general / open merit seat for Electronics BE in Regional Engineering College Suratkal (Karnataka), Electronics BE in UVCE Bangalore, Electronics & Electrical (ECE) combination BE in Guindy's Engineering College Chennai :- 1st in Practical, 1st in Theory, overall Topper / Stood first in 1st Semester ECE (BE); Guindy's Engineering College Chennai. An exemplary, good charactered, soft spoken, sweet voiced, humble, gentle, generous, loving & caring natured. She was the pride of her illustrious Late parents GP Capt Dr. Vijay Kumar Seth IAF/AMC retd, and Mrs. Meera Seth. Other details as below:-

- Army Medical Corps Interview at New Delhi; She secured All India ranking: 11th rank. Served 2 years at Military Hospital, Wellington Ooty, Tamil Nadu, as Medical Officer, declared Best Lady Medical Officer there. She also excelled in Painting, soft thin voice, so Singing, Sports (won silver cups), Embroidery & Crotia work. She & her Dad won best baby silver cups from Municipal Corporation, Gaya, Bihar.
- Taught Medical Subjects for two years at a local college, Bangalore. Excellent Teacher, a favorite of her students Inserted by sisters; elder; Ex. Capt. Dr. Reena Seth, younger; Ranjana Seth; Msc Botany Hons B.Ed from Osmania University Hyderabad with Distinction (80%) Mobile: 96068 63895.

SHRADHANJALI

Smt. M.S. SHEELA
Left for heavenly abode on 12-04-2026
W/o Sri. M.K. Shashikumar
Vaikunta Samaradhana on 26-04-2026 at their residence
Deeply Mourned by
Makam Family
Contact: 99016 67110

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Sr. Grace Castelino (Paulette)
26.01.1933 - 22.04.2026
Funeral Mass at 7:30am on 25.04.2026, at St. Martha's Hospital chapel and Funeral at Good Shepherd Convent, Museum Road, Cemetery Bangalore.
Mourned by Sisters of The Good Shepherd Province of SWI.

In loving memory of

Smt. Kamalamma
Wife of Late Driver Ramanna
Gatti Layout, Gubbi, Tumkur District
Date of Passing : 24-04-2025
Grieving family members

In loving memory of

Palecanda Bojamma Muthanna
(née Paruvangada)
Palecanda Bojamma Muthanna, née Paruvangada, passed away on April 22, 2026, in Arizona, USA, at the age of 91.
She was the wife of the late Palecanda P. Muthanna, former President of the Kodava Samaja, Bangalore, and former Advocate General of Karnataka, India.
She is survived by her daughters Dechu Muthana, Dr. Neeli Muthanna, her son Poonacha Muthanna, and grandsons, who continue to uphold her values and memory.
Her last rites in the Kodava tradition will be held on Friday, April 24, 2026, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Parallel direction for interim maintenance in matrimonial cases not sustainable: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has said that continuation of a parallel direction for interim maintenance in the matrimonial proceedings would result in duplication of relief and overlapping financial liability for the same period, which cannot be sustained in law. The court said this while partly allowing the petition filed by the husband.

The couple had married in November 2020 at Tumakuru and within a week, differences cropped up as the wife alleged that the husband's family insisted on Rs 25 lakh more and other demands as dowry. A complaint was registered with the Byatarayanapura police in Bengaluru city. Meanwhile, the husband filed a matrimonial case before the family court at Bengaluru, seeking divorce.

In January 2024, the family court awarded Rs 10,000 as interim maintenance to the wife and an additional Rs 20,000 towards litigation expenses, after allowing the interlocutory application filed by the wife. Subsequently, the wife filed a separate application before a Tumakuru court under CrPC section 125, seeking Rs 60,000 per month as maintenance and in November 2025, the Tumakuru court awarded Rs 10,000 as maintenance per month.

The husband challenged both these orders, contending that the wife possessed independent sources of income, including business and rental income amounting to Rs 4 lakh per month. It was submitted that parallel adjudication of maintenance claims is not permitted under law, citing the orders passed by Bengaluru and Tumakuru courts.

Justice Manmadha Rao noted that the Rs 10,000 interim maintenance awarded by the family court in Bengaluru is limited in nature, as final adjudication is pending.

"Rs 10,000 per month maintenance under Section 125 of the CrPC has been awarded by the Tumakuru court and the said determination being a final adjudication on the entitlement and quantum of maintenance, based on appreciation of evidence, assumes primacy over any interim arrangement made during the pendency of matrimonial proceedings. In that view of the matter, continuation of a parallel direction for interim maintenance in the matrimonial proceedings of family court, Bengaluru would result in duplication of relief and overlapping financial liability for the same period, which cannot be sustained in law," the court said.

The court further said, "The IV Additional Principal Judge, Family Court, Bengaluru, while adjudicating M.C.No.5/2022 finally, shall take into consideration the said maintenance and ensure appropriate adjustment while determining any permanent alimony or final maintenance, so as to avoid duplication."

94.1% students pass SSLC exams...

SSLC exams, from Page 1

This year, seven students secured 625 out of 625, including Prarthana Nagappa Biradar Patil from a government high school in Katageri in Athani taluk, Chikkodi.

Other toppers are: Bharath G from Sri Vidyalakshmi English Medium High School Kabbala, Davangere; Brunda M Tapse from St Mary's High School Chikkamagaluru; Dhanush Sudhir Mysore from Poorna Prajna Education Centre, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru; Preetham G Poojary of Mother Theresa Memorial School Udupi; Saujanya Basavraj Kandakur from Oxford English Medium High School Muddebihal, Vijayapura and Sukhdev Kattimani from BVR English Medium High School Manvi, Raichur.

Among the districts, Dakshina Kannada retained the first position with 98.40% and Udupi the second with 98.18%. Uttara Kannada, which was in fourth, jumped to third spot with Hassan slipping from third to fourth position. The results were sent to the students' registered mobile numbers via SMS as soon as they were announced. The marks cards will be available both in digital and physical format this year.

Panel proposes law to fund...

Rehabilitation, from Page 1

The committee argues that a modern excise policy must achieve a double dividend, generating revenue while simultaneously providing the financial muscle to repair the social fabric strained by alcohol misuse.

"The tax should not just fill the treasury but must provide the financial muscle to repair the social fabric," the report notes. If implemented, Karnataka has the chance to become the first state to design its policy from first principles, starting with the harm, deriving the tax and building the institutions to support it.

Spike in social harm

Domestic violence:

High-intensity drinkers are more likely to cause domestic strife, with the report noting that 73.4% of frequent drinkers' spouses report violence.

Economic drain:

Lower-income households are diverting a disproportionate share of their earnings toward these high-strength spirits, sacrificing nutrition and education..

Health crisis:

The intensity of consumption leads to a higher incidence of early-onset liver disease.

Contractor: Bribe demanded for clearing tender

Contractor, from Page 1

Besides this prayer, the petitioner has also sought directions to quash the March 25 tender notification and to direct BSWML to proceed and finalise the July 30, 2025, tender notification, in which he was declared L1 bidder.

After the petitioner was declared as L1 bidder, some other bidders had preferred statutory appeal in which orders were passed in violation of the provisions under the KTTP Act, as no opportunity was provided to the petitioner.

The petitioner contended that on March 25, a fresh notification was issued without complying with due procedure. For a tender to be recalled, the file must be placed before the board committee and the board must pass a resolution to recall the tender. This must be forwarded to the government for approval, the petition stated. None of this was followed, the petitioner stated.

No fuel shortage in Karnataka, OMCs ramp up supply

'State's extensive infra operating at full throttle'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Seeking to quell rising public anxiety, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on Thursday assured citizens that the state's fuel and LPG supply is stable and robust despite ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

Addressing a press conference in the city, Siddharth Agarwal, state-level coordinator for the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said that there is absolutely no shortage of petrol or diesel in the state.

He emphasised that the state's extensive infrastructure, anchored by the MRPL refinery in Mangaluru with a 15 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA) capacity, is operating at full throttle to ensure seamless distribution.

The LPG ecosystem is equally strong, with 12 bottling plants and 1,279 distributorships catering to a vast consumer base, he said.

On the retail front, Karnataka has 7,593 fuel stations, including 2,964 IndianOil outlets, 1,911 Bharat Petroleum outlets, 1,722 Hindustan Petroleum outlets and 437 CNG outlets along with private players.

These outlets are well distributed across urban, highway, and rural locations, ensuring universal accessibility, he explained.

Panic booking

The primary concern for many households has been the extended waiting period for LPG cylinders.

Agarwal clarified that a massive surge in panic bookings during March, where daily requests spiked to 3.75 lakh compared to the usual sub-3 lakh average, led to temporary backlogs.

"In early March, bookings on certain days increased tenfold. This wasn't due to a lack of supply but because customers were booking refills they didn't immediately need," Agarwal said.

To stabilise the situation, the government introduced a mandatory gap of 25 days between bookings for urban areas and 45 days for rural markets. The situation is now normalising, with current daily deliveries at 3.06 lakh cylinders, he added.

Commuters and autorickshaw drivers have faced the brunt of the crisis, with long queues seen at retail outlets across Bengaluru.

Officials attributed this to the withdrawal of private players, who previously held 80% of the state's Auto LPG market share.

With private stations operating partially or closing down, the entire demand has shifted to the 67 OMC-run stations.

"We have doubled our supply from 56 metric tonnes to 106 metric tonnes per day to compensate for the private sector gap," Agarwal noted.

Extended waiting period for refills has been the primary concern for many households.

Switch from LPG to PNG: GAIL

Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) CGM (CGD) Sanjay Kumar Singh said, "Our focus is ensuring safety and convenience for every household."

He urged the public to switch from LPG to PNG as it is available through pipeline connection like water. "We are rapidly expanding our infrastructure. We aim for 54,000 new connections in Bengaluru, transitioning customers from LPG to a more reliable, efficient, and modern energy source."

Black marketing

To combat hoarding and price gouging, the state government and OMCs have launched a massive enforcement drive. Over 3,735 raids have been conducted so far, resulting in the seizure of 1,840 cylinders and 37 arrests.

For those without address proof or those facing immediate shortages, the OMCs are promoting 5 kg Free Trade LPG (FTL) cylinders. These can be purchased from camps or dealerships with just a government ID.

Over 200 such camps have already been held across the state to assist migrant populations and low-income households.

Authorities have urged the public to ignore rumours and use official helplines (1967 for food/civil supplies or 112 for police assistance) to report black marketing.

"The supply chain from the refinery to the last mile is resilient. We are fully prepared to meet any surge in demand," the coordinator concluded.

IT firms head for 'selective hiring'...

IT hiring, from Page 1

As far as fresher hirings are concerned, IT services firms hinted at a similar number of hirings in FY27 like that of the previous fiscal.

"FY27 opens against the backdrop of a visible reset in India's technology employment narrative, as cost discipline and AI-led efficiencies temper the momentum of recent years. Even large IT firms have slowed net hiring, while entry-level roles have contracted by nearly 20–25%. This, though, should be seen as less of a slowdown and more as a rebalancing act," Devashish Sharma, Co-Founder & CEO, Taggd, said.

The FY27 expectations come against the backdrop of the country's top six IT firms cumulatively reducing workforce by 3,338 employees in FY26 compared to the previous fiscal year. The reduction is seen as a signal of challenges for the sector amid global uncertainties and persistent macroeconomic headwinds.

While the country's top IT services firm, Tata Consultancy Services, reduced headcount by 23,460 and Tech Mahindra by 1,108 in FY26, other four companies added a cumulative workforce of 21,230.

"FY26 saw a more measured and strategic approach to hiring amid demand uncertainty and cost pressures. Organisations increasingly prioritised critical, high-impact roles over broad-based expansion, while also leveraging internal talent mobility and driving productivity gains. At the same time, there was a clear shift towards contract and project-based hiring models, which affected traditional large hiring volumes. Overall, this reflects a phase of calibrated, selective hiring rather than a slowdown," NLB Services' Alug said.

According to Quess Corp's Kapil Joshi, FY26 saw a dip in hiring not because demand disappeared, but because the market went through a structural reset.As per Quess data, while overall IT demand still grew about 16%, companies operated with tighter budgets and a more cautious approach to hiring. The biggest shift was in the hiring mix—companies moved away from entry-level hiring and focused on experienced talent.

"The share of mid-level hiring increased sharply from 50% to 65%, while entry-level hiring dropped from 28% to 15%, creating a visible supply gap at the junior level. At the same time, demand for emerging skills like AI, cloud and cybersecurity rose from 38% to 52%, but the availability of 'deployment-ready' talent remained limited, widening the demand-supply gap further," Joshi explained.

He added that this also led to longer hiring cycles of 45-60 days, and even 75-90 days for niche roles, delaying closures.

Meanwhile, the demand landscape is increasingly centred around advanced and applied technology capabilities. Skills in AI and machine learning, data engineering, cloud ecosystems and cybersecurity will continue to be in strong demand, Sanketh Chengappa, Director and Business Head, Professional Staffing, Adecco India, said.

"Beyond this, there is a growing relevance for roles in platform engineering, DevOps, and automation, especially those that enable organisations to manage complex, large-scale digital environments efficiently. However, what is becoming equally important is the convergence of technical expertise with domain knowledge. Employers are prioritising professionals who can contextualise technology within business problems, whether in BFSI, manufacturing, healthcare or GCCs," he said.

Kutta sexual assault case triggers concerns on unlicenced homestays

T R SATHISH KUMAR
MYSURU, DHNS

The recent sexual assault on a tourist from the USA at a homestay in Kutta, Kodagu district has given rise to concerns on safety, especially of women, at popular tourist destinations.

As the victim is a foreign national, the reputation of the country is at stake. The tourism sector is negatively affected, impacting livelihood of people dependent on it.

C Narayana Gowda, president of Mysuru Hotel Owners' Association, said the government should check the mushrooming of homestays and that the police department should keep tabs on them.

"In Mysuru city alone, over 1,000 homestays are listed on online platforms and mobile applications. But not more than 50 of them have availed licences from the tourism department. Obtaining no objection certificates from the police department, civic body and licence from tourism department should be made compulsory. Recruitment of staff should be done carefully. Their biodata and relevant documents should be collected and details should be shared with jurisdictional police," he said.

N Nagendra of Kukkeshree Homestay in Jayalakshmipuram, said, "As honorary president of Mysuru District Homestay Owners' Association, I condemn the inhuman act. Irrespective of nationality, such incidents are unacceptable," he said.

"A similar heinous incident, involving a foreign national, took place in Hampi last year. At that time, there was huge outrage. But it subsided within a month, without leading to systemic corrective action. We fear that the same pattern will repeat," he said.

Vice-president of Kodagu District Homestay Owners' Association Naveen Ambekal said the incident was a black mark on the hospitality industry.

"When the guest is a foreign national, homestays are mandated to submit 'C form' at the jurisdictional police station. Owners of hospitality establishments should be careful while recruiting staff," he said.

Joint Director for Tourism K L Motilal said, "I have directed district officers to take measures to regulate the hospitality sector as per department guidelines. Those who wish to operate homestays should obtain a licence from the department. We got information that many homestays are operating without our licences. Law enforcing agencies should crack down on them."

Kodagu deputy commissioner S J Somashekar said the licence of the homestay in question at Kutta had been cancelled and officials had been instructed to take strict action against the accused.

Kodagu Superintendent of Police R N Bindu Mani said action had been taken immediately after receiving information from the US embassy and the accused had been arrested. "A meeting of officials of the police and tourism departments has been convened," she said.

A file photo of a homestay. Obtaining no-objection certificates from police, civic body and licence from tourism department should be made compulsory for homestays, say stakeholders.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Belagavi Division, Belagavi

No. PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2026-27/486 Date: 23-04-2026

ITEM RATE TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP PORTAL)

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item rate tenders from the eligible contractors registered in KPP Portal in Public Works Department under KW-1, 2, 3 & 4 Standard tender documents for awork under **8443 Deposit Contribution, 4059 CMIDP Works, 5054 KRDCL Bridge Works, 4059 CMIDP-SCP/ TSP Works, 3054 MDR Maintenance, 2059 Dept. buildings repair/maintenance, 2216 Building Maintenance, 4059 Dept Buildings, 5054 SH Improvement, 5054 MDR Improvement** total 32 number of works with minimum and maximum tender amounts of **Rs. 7.40 Lakhs** and **Rs. 471.56 Lakhs** respectively and minimum and maximum **EMD** amount of **Rs. 9,300/-** and **Rs. 7,07,400/- Part-1**: Tender receipt Date is on **04.05.2026** up to **4.30** PM, Technical Bid Opening Date is on **05.05.2026** after **4.45** PM **Part-2:** Tender receipt Date is on **12.05.2026** upto **4.30** PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on **13.05.2026** after **4.45** PM, **Part-3**: Tender receipt Date is on **15.05.2026** up to **4.30** PM, Technical Bid Opening Date is on **16.05.2026** after **4.45** PM**.** For more information contact the office of the undersigned and **www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in** after **23.04.2026.** (Note:1) If no bids received, 3 days One Time auto extension activated.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department.
Belagavi Division. Belagavi.

DIPR/BELAGAVI/147/2026-27/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No:VTU/BGM/RE/HK/MP/SG/2026-27/IFT No.08/301 Date: 22-04-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) - (Through KPP Portal Only)

As per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act - 1999 & Rule 2000, The Registrar, V.T.U., Belagavi invite tenders through KPP Portal basis from eligible Tenderers, registered in Labour Department and Other Concerned Department for the following Works of **1) Providing Man Power Services through Outsource Agencies at VTU Regional Centres of Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Extension Centre, Mangaluru, NASD., Dandeli, Talkal, Chintamani, Gokak and P.G. Centre of VIAT., Muddenahalli Amounting to Rs. 2,91,06,197/- (Excluding GST) (2nd Call), 2) Providing House Keeping Services through Outsource Agencies at VTU Regional Centres of Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Extension Centre, Mangaluru, P.G. Centre, VIAT., Muddenahalli, NASD., Dandeli, Skill Development Centre, Talkal, Gokak, Chintamani and Choranahalli Amounting to Rs. 3,69,54,820/- (Excluding GST) (3rd Call), 3) Providing Security Services through Outsource Agencies at VTU Regional Centres of Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Extension Centre, Mangaluru, NASD., Dandeli, Talkal, Chintamani, P.G. Centre, VIAT., Muddenahalli and Choranahalli Amounting to Rs. 3,79,39,151/- (Excluding GST) (2nd Call), 4) Providing House Keeping and Garden Services through Outsource Agencies at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi Amounting to Rs. 2,61,47,136/- (Excluding GST) (2nd Call), 5) Providing Security Services through Outsource Agencies at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi Amounting to Rs. 2,05,51,315/- (Excluding GST) (2nd Call), 6) Providing Manpower Services through Outsource Agencies at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi Amounting to Rs. 3,97,12,559/- (Excluding GST) (2nd Call) and 7) Providing Man Power Services through Outsource Agencies to Examination Scanning Centre at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi and VTU Regional Centre, Bengaluru Amounting to Rs. 2,84,93,044/- (Excluding GST) (3rd Call).** Other details log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 22-04-2026.**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/144/Adverto/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
E-mail:directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Phone No 08472-260252

No. GIMS/KLB/TENDER/SSH/CONS/CR/08/2026-27/183 Date:22-04-2026.

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites tender for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement 2.0 mode for the SUPPLY OF "MODULAR OT CONSUMABLES & MEDICAL ACCESSORIES" For GIMS, Super Specialty Hospital, kalaburagi. Details are available in the site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for upload of e-tender in E-procurement platform as follows.
1) Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from website-https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: No. GIMS/KLB/TENDER/SSH/CONS/CR/08/2026-27 Date:22.04.2026. IND. No: DME/2026-27/IND2266. 2) Last Date for Queries : 28-04-2026 at 17:00 pm, 3) Pre-bid Meeting : 30-04-2026 at 12:30 pm, 4) Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before : 08-05-2026 at 4.30 pm, 5) Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid : 11-05-2026 at 05:00 pm, 6) Opening of Tenders Financial bid : 12-05-2026 @ 11:30 am, 7) Tender amount : Rs.1,91,91,200=00, 8) EMD : Rs. 2,00,000=00, 9) Contact Details : Director, GIMS Kalaburagi veresh Nagar sedam road, Kalaburagi 585105. Office Email: directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Land Line:08472-260252 Cell:+919482093568 Tender Section Email: gimstenderklb22@gmail.com Cell:+919972688602

Sd/- Director
Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences,Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/67/KSMC&A/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC &APCC)/EE-Proc2/AE-4/2026-27/ 426-442 Dated: 23.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal mode only)

KPTCL invites Bids **(on Percentage rate basis)** on electronic mode for the following works against following Enquiry Number:

Enquiry number/ Name of the Work
KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3642

Combined Package for, **Work-A : Providing additional 1x20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV Ugane sub-station** in Hassan Taluk & District.

Work-B : Replacement of 2x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers at **66/11kV Chikkabommanahally sub-station in Arakalagudu Taluk, Hassan District.**

Work-C: Replacement of 1x6.3MVA & 1x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers at **66/11kV Doddamagge sub-station** in Arakalagudu Taluk, Hassan District.

Work-D : Replacement of **1x6.3MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers by **1x20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers at **66/11kV Mallipatna sub-station** in Arakalagudu Taluk, Hassan District.

on **Partial Turnkey Basis,** including Supply of all Materials/Equipments and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all materials/equipments, testing and Commissioning and dismantling of the materials.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **24.04.2026 @ 15:00 hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/-, Chief General Manager (Tech), KPTCL, Corporate Office, 11th Floor, Indhana Bhavan, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಜಯನಗರ 1 ನೇ ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ವಿನಾಯಕ ಹಾಲ್ ಎದುರುಗಡೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ–580001,
ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂ : 9449599477 E-mail : kn-dha@pmgsy.nic.in

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಕಾನಿಇಂ/ಯೋವಿಧಾ/ಸ.ಇಂ/2026–27/47 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23–04–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು, ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಐಟಂ ರೇಟ್ ದರಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರಗಳು : ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 1) KRRDA/2025-26/RD/Work Indent 535

ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಲಘಟಗಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸುವುದು. ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸುವುದು. ಕ್ಯಾಲೆಂಡರ್ ಆಫ್ ಇವೆಂಟ್ಸ್ : (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ದಿನಾಂಕ : **24–04–2026** ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (2) ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **29–04–2026** ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **02–05–2026** ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **04–05–2026** ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ/ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್, ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ, ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ಎಮ್.ಎಸ್. ದಿವಟರ್)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/89/2026–27

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

War clouds and a bleak outlook

In the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s latest report on the West Asia war's impact on the global economy, there are grim projections for a world still overcoming the fallout of the United States-triggered trade wars. Oil shocks will continue to impact the economy this year, even if the war ends soon, according to the report. Global oil supply is estimated to have dropped by over 10 million barrels a day, the highest disruption in history. It will take time for the production and supply infrastructure to normalise. The IMF has asked governments to avoid overspending given the global risk of deteriorating public finances.

The IMF noted that the world's economy had started looking up as the disruptions caused by US President Donald Trump's trade policies settled, and growth in investments was expected. The global growth rate was expected to be revised upward, though marginally. But that optimism has passed, and the IMF has now marked down the growth rate by 0.2 percentage points from its January forecast, to 3.1% in 2026. Global inflation is projected to rise to 4.4%. These figures are based on the expectation that the war will be over soon. Both growth and inflation figures will worsen if the war continues and crude prices spike further. The IMF fears a global recession if the situation deteriorates. Its predictions have been endorsed by bodies such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and many economists. The IMF has advised governments to exercise fiscal caution as long as the war lasts and even beyond.

The IMF projections underscore inflation risks and a longer impact of the oil shocks on the global economy

India's position in the global GDP rankings has been lowered in the report, from fourth to sixth, with Japan and the United Kingdom overtaking the country in terms of nominal GDP. Though the war has impacted India, this lowering of rank does not reflect an economic slowdown. The IMF has estimated the Indian economy at $4.15 trillion, up from $3.92 trillion the year before. The slide in rankings is the result of a depreciating rupee and the change in methodology adopted for the GDP estimates this year. The IMF compares economies in terms of the US dollar; the 10% weakening of the rupee in recent weeks has shrunk the economy in dollar terms. India, the IMF projects, will overtake the UK and Japan in 2027 and become the third-largest economy by overtaking Germany in 2031. This offers reassurance about the economy's intrinsic strength amid bleak global trends.

Bike taxis: Litigation stalls mobility reform

The Karnataka government's decision to move a Special Leave Petition (SLP) against the High Court's January 2026 order permitting bike taxis amounts to policy myopia at a time when urban mobility demands innovation, not obstruction. Instead of prolonging litigation, the state must urgently frame a robust regulatory framework that prioritises passenger safety while protecting livelihoods. The government's principal contention rests on classification – that motorcycles are not 'transport vehicles' under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. This position is increasingly untenable. The Centre, through the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, has clarified that motorcycles fall within the definition of 'contract carriage' under Section 2(7), and can legally be used to carry passengers for hire. The updated Aggregator Guidelines go further, explicitly encouraging states to integrate bike taxis into shared mobility frameworks. Karnataka's legal challenge, therefore, risks placing it in contradiction with evolving national policy.

More troubling is the state's inconsistency. Even as it argues before the Supreme Court for the right to deny permits, a recent communication from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi indicated a willingness to create guidelines recognising the sector. This contradiction exposes a policy vision that oscillates between prohibition and reluctant acceptance. The employment dimension cannot be ignored. Nearly 1.5 lakh gig workers in Karnataka, many concentrated in Bengaluru, depend on bike taxi platforms for income. In a state that prides itself on being India's technology hub, undermining a key segment of the gig economy sends the wrong signal.

Karnataka should withdraw the petition and choose strong regulation over an outright ban

If motorcycles are deemed unsuitable as transport vehicles, an obvious question arises: on what basis are they being used by delivery partners of food and e-commerce platforms? Selective prohibition erodes regulatory credibility.

Safety concerns, often cited by the government, are valid – but they are not an argument for a ban. They are a case for regulation. Helmets for both rider and passenger, mandatory insurance coverage, GPS tracking, background verification, and fare transparency are all enforceable safeguards. Several states have demonstrated that bike taxis can operate within structured, accountable systems. Urban mobility is at an inflection point. Congestion, last-mile connectivity gaps, and rising commuting costs demand flexible solutions. Bike taxis, when regulated effectively, offer an affordable and efficient alternative. The High Court recognised this reality. The state government must do the same. Continuing with the SLP only deepens uncertainty for workers and commuters alike. Karnataka must step back from litigation and step forward with policy. The choice is clear: regulate, do not resist.

COMPLEX MAJORITY

The two-thirds threshold as a political tool

Weaponising the amendment rule under Article 368 to stage the bill's failure defeats the constitutional spirit

V VENKATESAN

What is a constitutional safeguard for? The question sounds abstract. It became sharp on April 17, when the Lok Sabha rejected the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill by a margin its architects had counted in advance. Article 368's two-thirds rule was designed to compel consensus. The government's intention, however, was to stage its failure.

Two-thirds was a considered choice. When the Constituent Assembly took up what was then Draft Article 304 on September 17, 1949, several alternatives were available. Brajeshwar Prasad wanted the threshold deleted; it would, he feared, "act as a brake to any progressive legislation". P S Deshmukh wanted a lower bar initially. Jawaharlal Nehru tabled an amendment to ease procedure. When the article came up, he declined to press it, evidently content to let the Drafting Committee's architecture stand. Naziruddin Ahmad argued the opposite: a young Constitution needed strictness.

B R Ambedkar's reply on September 17, 1949, set out the architecture that became Article 368. He divided the Constitution's provisions into "three categories". A simple majority could amend some of them. Most required two-thirds. A smaller set, touching federal matters, also required ratification by half the states. He answered the charge of rigidity by looking abroad. Canada had no formal amendment procedure at all. The United States demanded two-thirds of both Houses plus three-fourths of the states. Australia required a national referendum. By those standards, Ambedkar argued, the Indian procedure was flexible. Two-thirds was the price of disciplined change.

One assumption ran through the defence. Ambedkar took it for granted that those invoking the amending power would do so in earnest. The Assembly did not design it for a government tabling an amendment expecting to lose. The rule presupposed legislative seriousness. Madhav Khosla, in *India's Founding Moment* (2020), has argued that the Indian Constitution was designed not merely to govern but to educate. It was meant to shape a political culture in which constitutional procedures would be invoked in good faith. Two-thirds was part of that design.

That assumption was tested within 16 months. The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951, was moved by Nehru on May 10 and enacted on June 18. It restricted free speech, created Articles 31A and 31B to shield land-reform legislation, and inserted the Ninth Schedule. Nehru wrote to West Bengal Chief Minister Bidhan Chandra Roy during the passage. "Till the last moment," he conceded, he could not be sure of the two-thirds. Nehru's uncertainty is itself revealing. A government anxious about the threshold is a government trying to clear it.

An engineered defeat

The rule has, on balance, done its work. Every one of the 106 numbered amendments cleared Article 368's two-thirds bar; a smaller subset, touching federal provisions, additionally required ratification by half the states. A narrow set of provisions – Scheduled Areas, new state admissions, citizenship – lies outside Article 368 altogether and can be changed by a simple majority. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, in his 2009 study of the basic structure doctrine, observed that the doctrine had not made the Constitution rigid. In his count, it had cleared nearly 70 amendments by then, and the number has since grown. The doctrine has only made the amendments serious.

Where the rule has failed, the failure has been of politics, not procedure. The First Amendment was passed by a unicameral Provisional Parliament, not the bicameral body Article 368 assumed. The 39th Amendment of 1975 was passed during the Emergency to shield the Prime Minister's election from judicial review, and was later struck down. The 42nd Amendment was enacted during a suspension of opposition politics.

The 131st is different in kind. Earlier Constitutional Amendment Bills have failed in other ways – by Rajya Sabha defeat after Lok Sabha passage, or by lapse on dissolution. The 131st was brought to a Lok Sabha vote on arithmetic that the government knew in advance would fail it.

A two-thirds bar is an instrument of federal bargaining. It forces a government to negotiate with states, regional parties, and minority opinion, because two-thirds cannot be reached without them. The GST Amendment of 2016 was redrafted repeatedly across two years, absorbing state concerns on compensation and on Council voting weights. The 106th Amendment of 2023 was framed to attract opposition concurrence. The 131st was not. The Bill went to the floor in the form which the Cabinet had approved.

The Bill failed, as the rule required. What it threatens is the rule's standing as a serious constitutional instrument. When a government tables an amendment it knows cannot pass, the test the rule was meant to impose never runs. Where the assumption that those invoking the two-thirds would do so in earnest holds, the rule works. Where it erodes, the rule survives on paper but loses its purpose.

Critics will object, rightly, that this is a counsel without a remedy. No court can inquire into the motive behind an amendment. No Speaker can refuse to list a Bill because the arithmetic is unfavourable. No procedural reform will cure the use of Article 368 as signalling. The corrective must come from how the event is read by the House, the press, and the electorate. Like many parliamentary conventions, the rule's strength lies in observance by those it binds. David Landau's 2013 essay, 'Abusive Constitutionalism', described elected governments using amendment procedures against their purpose. The 131st is a quiet variant. What is abused is not the amendment but its engineered defeat, recast as opposition obstruction. It was, in fact, the rule doing its work.

The 131st is a reminder that a constitutional safeguard is only as strong as the willingness of its custodians to invoke it in good faith.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in the National Capital Region)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

In the trenches of nostalgia

What began as mischief ended in a lingering memory

H NARAYANAN

As a student of Municipal Elementary School in Salem District, I had once scurried out to the lone stationery shop situated cater-corner to our school to buy two coloured chalk sticks to write on my black slates. Not just elementary schools, even higher elementary schools employed the time-honoured—now outdated—chalk-and-slate method of teaching. The number of slates I had broken in those days, owing entirely to my insouciance, and the thrashings I received from my mother are beyond measure.

That evening, after school closed, I hurried to the same shop, bought two coloured shale sticks, tucked them under the notebooks in my schoolbag, and began crossing the road leading home. A trench dug next to our school compound for laying building foundations caught my eye.

The passages within it intrigued me; I soon jumped in and began walking along them to the other end. Finding nothing but a maze of narrow passages, I retraced my steps to where I had jumped in. A boy all of seven years, I stood in the trench, about a foot or so shorter than its depth. As I looked around for any easy exit, darkness began to descend, and within minutes it began to drizzle. I shouted, "Is there anyone around? Please get me out of this trench."

My repeated shouts finally drew someone from the road nearby. With luck in my favour, it happened to be our maid, Veerayi—a short, middle-aged woman returning home after the day's grind. Noticing me inside the trench, she stood shocked for a moment and asked, "Nana"—as I was called at home—"how did you get in there?" With my school bag hanging from my shoulder, I held forth my hands towards her, pleading to be pulled out.

Lying flat on the ground close to the trench, she yanked me out with a firm grip of my hands and took me back to our house about a distance of a stone's throw from there. My mother was already aware of what had happened. Fear got the better of me, and I dared not enter our house in anticipation of the usual twitching and whacking. Veerayi left after pacifying me that my mother would not beat me, besides advising me never to go near any trench again.

After Veerayi left, quite contrary to giving me the usual share of whacking, my mother smeared *viboodhi* (the sacred ash) and applied it on my glabella besides offering me a tumbler of hot coffee, advising me to come straight home after school.

The incident lingered as a pang of nostalgia years later, when I visited the Imambaras in Lucknow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The census exercise needs flexibility, awareness drives

This refers to 'Census in city needs structural corrections' (Apr 23). The ongoing census is a highly challenging task. Considering the prevailing heatwave, the timing for house listing is scheduled between 6 and 10 am and 6 and 9 pm. How many people would welcome a stranger as early as 6 am and as late as 9 pm? The questionnaire with 33 questions will also likely test people's patience. The exercise is further complicated by the needless apprehension that their responses may render them ineligible for a ration card and other subsidies. The self-enumeration is an excellent idea that saves a lot of time for citizens and enumerators. Instead of limiting it to just 15 different days across the country, the self-enumeration should be an ongoing process. By creating awareness, more people could opt for self-enumeration.
Prabhu Harle, Bengaluru

Multi-level action

Apropos 'Road safety through the right lens' (Apr 23), road safety needs to be tackled at multiple levels. The 1.7 lakh deaths on our roads annually, constituting 11% of the global fatalities, with 30% happening on our national highways — which make up just 2% of the country's road network — reflect the gravity of the situation, placing a premium on the safety of every individual. The solution lies in rectification of design, encroachment-free footpaths and the right of way; educating commuters in safety measures; enforcing strict traffic management; giving relief to accident victims before the Golden Hour, etc. One hopes the Supreme Court's intervention will help improve road safety norms.
H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Keep the discourse civil

The increasing vitriol in India's public discourse suggests a disturbing departure from statesmanship to a culture of unbridled hostility. When leaders exchange labels like "terrorist" and "foeticide" casually, they do more than insult opponents; they degrade the very office they represent and poison the social fabric. This linguistic escalation reflects a pursuit of dominance at the expense of democratic decorum. If our highest representatives prioritise inflammatory rhetoric over reasoned debate, they validate aggression for the masses. We must demand a return to measured speech, for a democracy without civility eventually loses the capacity for collective progress.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

His (publisher of *Shivaji Kon Hota*) tongue needs to be ripped off. We cannot read such books that insult Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. This book should be destroyed.
Sanjay Gaikwad, Shiv Sena MLA

When you tear out a man's tongue, you are not proving him a liar, you're only telling the world that you fear what he might say.
George R R Martin

TO BE PRECISE

Trump calls India 'Hellhole'

IN PERSPECTIVE

Testing times: AI in the classroom

Higher education assessment models must foster critical thinking and align learning with real-world demands

SHILPI BANERJEE

Educational institutions, which briefly experimented with Open Book Examinations (OBE), are steadily returning to traditional closed-book formats. At the same time, workplaces are moving in the opposite direction – incorporating AI-based automation in coding, technical writing, creative production, and more. While classrooms increasingly restrict access to information and automated tools during assessments, industries place growing value on the ability to use these tools effectively. Students often feel uncomfortable with this disconnect and question whether assessment methods in the classroom truly reflect the realities of the professional world.

To better understand this disconnect, it is important to recognise that in any organisation (industry or academia), processes are in place to ensure high-quality output. In industry, the output is products or services; in academia, it is educated individuals. While advanced AI tools can enhance industrial output, their indiscriminate use in education risks diluting the very quality of the academic outcomes–students' learning and understanding. Assessment strategies need to be refined so they better address the students' concerns.

Earlier, traditional closed-book, invigilated examinations dominated assessment systems in universities. During that period, OBEs were promoted as a way to provide more authentic summative assessments that reflect the real-world expectations. These exams help students synthesise available information to answer questions that assess higher-order thinking skills. Additionally, this approach can reduce test anxiety and promote academic honesty.

However, the rise of artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT and Gemini has pushed examinations back to square one, with faculty members favouring closed-book, time-bound, and invigilated formats. This shift underscores the tension between technological innovation and earlier innovations in assessment. While industries can leverage technological innovations to enhance efficiency, the field of education must resist the temptation to let AI technology dictate assessment practices. After all, education should equip students with the ability to think critically and solve problems. Generating assessment responses using AI tools can significantly hinder the development of these skills.

The more important question, then, is not simply whether assessments should be designed on an open-book or closed-book format, or how the use of AI-based tools can be restricted. Rather, we should ask what skills can be assessed to help students thrive in an AI-dominated world, how AI tools can be used ethically, and how the assessments should be designed.

The process behind the answers

In a world where AI can quickly generate answers, the skills that matter most are the ability to evaluate, critique, and synthesise information. AI can suggest solutions, but it cannot truly bring together a student's personal experiences, local realities, or ethical concerns. Instead of asking students to summarise a research paper or case study, we can ask them to examine two conflicting responses generated by AI and decide which is more convincing and why. Although AI can produce arguments, it still lacks the judgment required to question its own assumptions or identify their logical flaws.

In addition to what needs to be assessed, it is equally important to focus on how the assessments should be designed such that the focus is not only on the final answer but on the thinking behind that answer. It is important to pay attention not just to the product but also to the process of assessment. Such an approach values the documentation of thinking, revision, and meta-cognitive reflection, alongside the outcome. Process journals, drafts, and structured peer discussions can show how students rethink ideas, respond to feedback, and improve their work over time. These aspects of learning are difficult for AI to imitate.

Another useful approach is to adopt multiple methods of assessment, including *viva voce*, presentations, and classroom discussions. When students explain their ideas in real time, answer unexpected questions, and defend their views, they show a genuine understanding and ownership of their learning—something a machine cannot easily replicate.

These choices of skills, methods, and assessment designs may suffice for now, but we must recognise that AI models will continue to evolve, bringing new challenges. The rapid pace at which the machines learn compared to humans means that technology will constantly push the frontiers, requiring us to adapt continuously. The role of the educators is to anticipate these changes and develop strategies that align with technological advancements. Rather than attempting to prevent the use of AI, we should accept that AI is here to stay and design assessments that evaluate how effectively students collaborate with it as an intellectual tool.

(The writer teaches at Azim Premji University)

India's labour question is now a supply chain question

SAMADRITO MUKHERJEE

Between April 10 and 14, an estimated 40,000 to 45,000 workers across more than 80 locations in Noida's Phase-2 industrial belt walked off the job, blocked highways and clashed with police; nearly 400 people were arrested. Within 24 hours, the Uttar Pradesh government announced an interim 21% hike in the unskilled minimum wage for Gautam Buddh Nagar and Ghaziabad — from Rs 11,313 to Rs 13,690 a month — and promised a wage board.

That speed matters. Noida's unskilled minimum wage had been the lowest in the National Capital Region (NCR)—25% below Gurugram's and far below Delhi's floor of Rs 18,456. Workers also reported meagre annual increments, unpaid overtime and 12-hour shifts. None of this was unknown. It was tolerated until workers stopped traffic. What broke in Noida was not only industrial peace—it was the assumption that workers would keep absorbing rising costs.

After the West Asia energy shock, LPG prices rose again. For workers near the wage floor, that is not a macroeconomic development; it is fewer meals, delayed rent, reduced remittances and one more month of impossible arithmetic. When income is already inadequate, even a small price rise can turn simmering grievance into collective action.

This pressure lands on a fragile labour regime. According to the Annual Survey of Industries, contract workers now account for 42% of employees in organised manufacturing, up from roughly 20% two decades ago. Contracting gives firms flexibility, but often at the cost of accountability. When wages are delayed, workers typically have no effective claim against the principal employer; the contractor is the immediate interface, and contractors change. Grievance systems are weak or absent. By the time a dispute becomes visible, it has often been building for months.

Noida fits a broader pattern. In 2020, labour violations at a major electronics plant in Kolar, Karnataka, led to unrest and probation by its global client. In 2021, contaminated food at a contractor-run hostel kitchen near an iPhone plant in Sriperumbudur (Tamil Nadu) hospitalised workers, triggered protests and shut the facility for weeks; that supplier too was put on probation. These episodes revealed the same structural problem: contractor chains long enough that responsibility for wages, housing, food and working conditions was endlessly diffused.

India's manufacturing push matters not only for exports but also because jobs created must widen economic security. If those jobs are too precarious to support household stability, that promise rings hollow.

India is no longer a marginal manufacturing story. Smartphone exports reached $30 billion in 2025, making them India's largest export category. India is now the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer by volume. Manufacturing FDI in FY25 reached $19 billion, up 18%. For firms seeking alternatives to China, the question is no longer whether India is inexpensive enough. It is whether India is dependable enough.

Dependability weakens every time a supplier is put on probation, a plant halts over worker welfare, or a grievance reaches the highway because there was no credible channel inside the factory. India's apparel experience offers a warning: despite scale and experience, its global share fell from about 4% in 2017 to under 3% in 2024, even as Bangladesh and Vietnam expanded. Electronics has done better so far, but continued gains are not automatic.

The business case for reform is stronger than Indian industry often admits. Research from the ILO's Better Work programme found that factories with improved working conditions were up to 8% more profitable than comparable plants. Supervisory training raised productivity by 22% on trained lines. In Vietnam, average factory profitability rose 25% after four years in the programme.

Some argue that India's labour relations are messier than China's and therefore a disadvantage. But China's predictability rests on far tighter control over worker voice. India neither has nor should want that model. Its path to industrial reliability must run through enforcement instead: credible wage floors, clear responsibility across contractor chains, and grievance channels that work before anger spills onto public roads.

The legal framework exists. The deeper deficit is enforcement—and a refusal to treat the wage floor as a real floor. Uttar Pradesh's interim hike was crisis management, not labour policy. Once the immediate shock fades, the underlying vulnerabilities will remain unless they are addressed directly: wages below subsistence, diffused responsibility in contract labour, and the absence of credible plant-level grievance systems.

India's manufacturing opportunity is real but will not be secured by incentives alone. It will depend on whether the workers inside its supply chains can reliably expect to be paid, housed and heard. The real question is not whether India can become a factory for the world. It is whether it can do so on terms stable enough for workers to endure and credible enough for global buyers to trust.

(The writer is a data and business intelligence analyst)

The B'nei Menashe believe they are the children of Manasseh, a king of Judah exiled about 2,800 years ago. Evidence is thin, but Israel is welcoming them "home"

HARI KUMAR AND ALEX TRAVELLI

Daniel Hangshing, (centre), leading Shabbat prayers with his children at his home in Kangpokpi. NYT

A lost tribe in India makes its exodus to Israel

Of all the world's tribes, the B'nei Menashe are as lost as they come. A few thousand can be found in a far corner of India, at the kibbutz of Ma'oz Tzur, where a subtropical breeze blew past the mezuza at Shimon Ngamthenlal's door recently. He shuffled about his bamboo hut, tending to a collection of writings about Judaism, printed in English and Hebrew. In the background, women on woven stools were chopping foraged greens for his family's lunch — Southeast Asian, and just about kosher.

This lonely outpost in India's remote northeast, flush against Myanmar, is home to a community that believes itself to be one of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel: children of Manasseh, a king of Judah who was exiled about 2,800 years ago. There are about 10,000 of the B'nei Menashe spread between Manipur and Mizoram and, increasingly now, Israel itself, 3,600 miles to the west.

For generations, they have been teaching their children how their ancestors wandered from the ancient Middle East across Asia to find refuge in the jungle. They are more interested in their religion than in arguments about their historical origin.

"We have faith in the *Torah*," said Ngamthenlal, his face framed by payot, the sidelocks worn by some Orthodox Jewish men. An *aliyah*, or homecoming, is finally in their sights. "We have good faith in the Israeli government. They promised that all the B'nei Menashe will go to Israel by 2030," he said. "We all have our passports ready."

Nearly half the community has already moved to Israel, piecemeal, since the 1990s. But on Thursday, with Operation 'Wings of Dawn,' Israel itself will fly about 250 more of the Menashe, via Delhi, to Tel Aviv, Israel. The rest are to follow soon after.

Some of the earliest groups made their homes in places like Hebron in the West Bank and in Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip, before 2005. In November, the Israeli government agreed to help the remaining 5,800 or so immigrate *en masse*, including 1,200 this year, and is covering some of the cost.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called the funding "an important and Zionist decision that will also strengthen the North and Galilee" regions of Israel, parts of which were taking rocket fire from Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon last week.

Israel is eager to replenish a workforce that has been thinned out by the wars that began with the Hamas attack of October 7, 2023. Israelis called to military duty or displaced by rocket attacks, Palestinians from the West Bank barred from their regular work and a reduced flow of migrant labour from countries including Nepal and Thailand have hurt the economy.

The Menashe themselves insist on putting faith first. Benjamin Haokip, another resident of the Manipuri kibbutz, said, "We follow Judaism, and here we cannot follow all our customs." Some prayers require a *minyan* or quorum, which is hard to find in the hills. Others require knowledge gained through cultural experience and foodstuffs that can't be found locally. "We want to go to Israel for our religion," he said.

The principal appeal of moving is to worship among fellow Jews in Israel, Haokip said, even if it is not the only reason. Manipur's lush hills are in one of the poorer parts of India. The state's per capita economic activity was worth about $1,200 a year, according to data for 2023-2024, the most recent available. Israel's is more than $55,000.

"We want to go to Israel, 90% for our religion, but yes, other things are better there, too—like education," Ngamthenlal, the Hebrew teacher, said.

Most of the Menashe in India work on family farms or as day labourers. Their kin who have made it to Israel tend to drive trucks or work in construction and factories. Most urge those still in India to join them.

Jessica Thangjom, a Menashe who lives in Israel, works for an organisation that helps others from the tribe make the leap. "Transitioning" is the tough part, she wrote in a message. To go from their agrarian lifestyle "to a technologically sophisticated environment is not an easy journey."

In Manipur, the Menashe are classified as a Kuki people. The languages they speak belong to the Tibetan-Burmese family and conventional anthropology traces their roots back to what is now Chinese territory. Most Kukis first converted to Christianity early in the 20th century, under the influence of American missionaries.

It was in the 1970s that a couple of maverick Israeli anthropologists visited northeastern India and observed that some of their pre-Christian customs resembled Judaic practices. The Kuki chants had a familiar music, their folk tales seemed to recall the escape from Egypt and, in times of calamity like earthquakes, they called out a local phrase that sounded like "Manasseh!" That was how they came to be regarded as the Menashe.

Among those convinced were the family of W L Hangshing, a retired income-tax official in New Delhi who serves as the president of the B'nei Menashe Council of India. His father migrated to Israel years ago and lived his last years there. Hangshing acknowledged that the historical evidence available to support his community's claim can seem thin, but the dispersion of the Menashes was so ancient, "you won't find any trace of it now, not even in DNA." (Some lost tribes have established a thread of genetic inheritance, including the Lemba of southern Africa.)

"We're called the Lost Tribes, and lost means lost!" Hangshing said. Scientists who have sought biological proof of ancestry were misguided, he said: "Only God can do that."

His fellow tribe member, Haokip, 37, said family elders had told him the tribe was from Israel. A few other small communities in India better documented attestations of their Jewish descent, but the Menashe have transmitted their beliefs strongly.

Split by war

Across Manipur's central valley from the kibbutz, another community of Menashe lives in the town of Kangpokpi. The drive between the two places should take less than four hours — in peacetime. But in May 2023, Manipur was split along jagged lines by terrible bloodletting between Kukis and the majority Meitei people who inhabit its lowlands. It remains violent: This month at least five people, including two children, were killed along the road from Churachandpur.

"After the Kuki-Meitei violence, life has become more difficult," said Haokip, who came with his wife and children to the kibbutz after being driven from their homes by mob violence.

For the three years since, it has been virtually impossible for either group to make the same journey across the lowlands. Kukis said that the hatred between the groups is too fierce and there have been tit-for-tat killings for years.

Daniel Hangshing (a distant relation of W L Hangshing) lives hardly a block from a synagogue in Kangpokpi. To prove his suitability for emigration to Israel he had to bring his whole family on a 2-1/2-day voyage, by taxi and train, to a neighbouring state to meet with rabbis. "There they talked to us through an interpreter who came from Israel, for 40 minutes," he said.

This Hangshing isn't a frequent visitor to the temple in his own neighbourhood, though the children of his extended family go often and he practices a Sabbath ceremony at home every Friday. He is firm in his beliefs: "India is our birthplace, and Israel is our destiny. That is our promised land. We have to go there." He is learning Hebrew on the Duolingo app.

So, the Hangshings will be leaving one war-torn territory, crisscrossed by no-go zones, for another. Daniel Hangshing said: "We know that Israel is a place in turmoil, but we have to go there and die there. We are not bothered about the war."

The New York Times

Silence, scrutiny and the burden on women

HARINI RAGHAVAN

In 2018, the Supreme Court of India struck down Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code, meaning that adultery, while misconduct and a relevant ground for divorce, is no longer a criminal offence. In India, while adultery is socially frowned upon for both genders, women frequently face higher levels of social stigma, ostracism, and even violence, as they are considered "torch bearers" of family honour. While decriminalisation indeed works in favour of women, societal trials against them continue, often revealing deep-rooted double standards where men are judged far less harshly. A recent incident in Chennai brings this into sharp focus.

In the present day, in Chennai, a popular actor-turned-politician's personal life has become the subject of intense, acrid public discourse. His wife recently filed for divorce, one of the cited reasons being adultery.

With his then-impending electoral debut, the wife drew severe public ire over the timing of her petition. Some have alleged that she is interested in her husband's political downfall, even suggesting that she is executing a Machiavellian plan on behalf of the party in power. The fellow actor he has been linked with has not been spared either, torn to smithereens in certain sections of public commentary. Their recent public appearance has further fuelled speculation, with her being labelled a "home wrecker" by many.

This sentiment extends to sections of his supporters (many women included) condoning the allegations levelled against him by saying: "If other senior party leaders can have multiple wives, why not our leader?" This kind of deflective and unquestioning support sounds just as regressive as the old saying "Caesar's wife should be above reproach."

In this case, is Caesar himself exempt from scrutiny?

In addition, the political leader has maintained silence in the midst of all the vitriol. Being in positions of influence, they can bring balance to the conversation with measured responses, especially in the face of continued vilification of women. Silence, even if dignified, may not always be the answer. At times, it can be read as complicity.

More broadly, women have come a long way thanks to the efforts of social activists and suffragettes fighting for the most basic rights.

However, an equitable and just world is still a far reality for women. South Asia contributes to a large percentage of global honour killings. Rape, domestic violence — the list remains long. In this context, conscious silence further perpetuates the cycle of violence against women.

The sisterhood of mutual understanding and support is one of the ways this imbalance can be addressed. In situations where women are pitted against each other, solidarity can be expressed by stepping outside the frame until the dust settles.

Periyar E V Ramasamy's "Self-Respect Movement" shaped relevant discourse on women's rights in Tamil Nadu as early as the 1920s. Among other initiatives, it advocated women's education, property rights and the right to exit oppressive marriages.

Subsequently, Dravidian parties in Tamil Nadu incorporated many of these ideas into policy, ensuring equal rights to ancestral property; reservation for women in government jobs; welfare measures supporting widows and remarriage; and, importantly, dignity for trans women through terms like "Thirunangai", a respectful term for trans women.

Another important movement in India is the anti-rape movement of the 1970s, following the rape of a 16-year-old girl, Mathura, in a police station in Maharashtra. Upendra Baxi, a legal scholar and professor, along with other legal scholars, wrote an open letter to the Supreme Court demanding justice. This effort culminated in thousands of women taking to the streets, seeking justice for Mathura. It changed the legal and social context around rape, shifting power from the accused to the victim. Notably, in both instances, two men anchored two very important path-breaking initiatives around women. They spoke. They changed the narrative.

The real issue in public controversies is rarely the private failing; it is the silence that reflects a lack of accountability among powerful men, while women bear the disproportionate weight of judgment.

In this information-saturated age, people are constantly rooting for the right candidate. Despite a needle-in-a-haystack situation, the discerning voter is carefully assessing candidates on grounds of empathy, respect, and reliability. They see through grandstanding speeches and tokenism, the very themes many political leaders appear to engage their coterie of existing supporters with.

Given this, the question then is whether current and aspiring politicians (men especially) will continue to espouse true feminist values, be better allies and, importantly, speak up when necessary – as voices like Periyar and Baxi once did.

(The writer is the co-founder of an executive search concern with a focus on women and diversity)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: APRIL 1976

Pelican sanctuary near Mandya mooted

Mysore, April 23
Officials in charge of Wildlife Conservation are planning to develop a pelican and painted storks bird sanctuary in the twin villages of Bellur and Bannalli in Mandya. The two remote villages, 80 kms from here, shot into limelight last fortnight with the discovery of pelicanry by Mr. S. G. Neginhal, Assistant Conservator of Forests (Wildlife). The discovery is stated to be the first of its kind in the State. Conservator of Forests S. K. Varadaraj and Mr. Neginhal visited the villages yesterday to inspect the area for the proposed bird sanctuary.

25 YEARS AGO: APRIL 2001

Jayalalitha disqualified

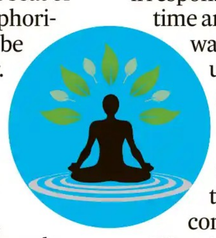
Chennai, April 23
In a major setback to the AIADMK-led secular front in Tamil Nadu, AIADMK general secretary and former Chief Minister J Jayalalitha was today disqualified from contesting the May 10 Assembly elections on the ground that she had been convicted by a trial court and sentenced to more than two years imprisonment in two corruption cases relating to purchase of government-owned TANSI land when she was chief minister. Her nomination papers were rejected not only in Andipatti and Krishnagiri, where she herself filed her papers, but also in Bhuvanagiri and Pudukottai.

OASIS | GEORGE NETTO

Reining in one's ego

Few realise it, but quite often one's ego, fuelled by pride and vanity, is one's biggest enemy. It can cause one more personal problems than anything else. Left uncontrolled, one's ego can ruin one's life and cause untold harm to others. On the other hand, judicious control of one's ego can go a long way in making one's life (and that of our fellowmen) pleasant and tolerable.

Like one's very existence, one's ego is a precious God-given gift to help one lead a mentally balanced life, free from the inebriety of delusions. It is never intended to be used maliciously against anyone. Ideally, one's ego should be a repository of considerateness, concern and, of course, compassion for those less fortunate than oneself.



One's ego is, basically, the seat of one's mind or psyche; metaphorically speaking, it could well be termed the mind's reflector. The mentally well-balanced person always keeps his ego reined in, never allowing it to get the better of his good sense or judgment. When that happens, self-restraint is often abandoned, precipitating serious and unforeseen consequences for one.

An unrestrained ego can spread more unhappiness, ill-feeling and resentment than one can imagine. Indeed, an individual with an unbridled ego is akin to a power-crazed and irresponsible dictator. History shows, time and again, that many a bloody war has been launched (and unreasonably prolonged) by an overinflated ego hell-bent on wreaking vengeance on its enemies. Are such misguided and over-sensitive egos behind the current conflict destructively raging in West Asia? It is well known that, apart from national considerations, personal egos do play a crucial role – in the form of catalysts – in most international confrontations.

Reining in one's ego – however hard it may be – can lead to a positive improvement in one's personal relations with others. And, for a stress-free life, is anything more important these days than a harmonious relationship with one's colleagues, associates, peers, neighbours and relatives?

One needs to bear in mind that one's ego is never intended to be put to negative use. Indeed, it is divinely decreed to be used – sensibly, constructively and exclusively – for the overall betterment of one's life and the lives of those around us. A conscious and sincere effort is, therefore, needed to control one's ego when it tends to get out of hand or assert itself irresponsibly.

Zojila Tunnel in final excavation phase, nears breakthrough

To end Ladakh's winter isolation, and ensure year-round military, civilian access to region

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

As India sharpens its strategic posture along its borders with China and Pakistan, the long-delayed Zojila Tunnel is nearing a key milestone, promising to end Ladakh's winter isolation and ensure year-round military and civilian access to the sensitive frontier region.

The project has entered its final excavation phase, with the "breakthrough" — when the two ends of the tunnel meet — expected by the end of May, according to Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari.

The development marks a major step forward in one of India's most critical high-altitude infrastructure projects.

Once completed, the 13.15 km tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh, bypassing the treacherous Zojila Pass, which remains shut for nearly six months each year due to heavy snowfall and avalanches.

The tunnel is expected to reduce travel time along the route to about 15 minutes, ensuring smoother movement of people, goods and essential supplies.

Beyond its civilian utility, the tunnel carries immense strategic importance. Ladakh's location along contested borders has long posed logistical challenges, particularly during winter months when road access is cut off.

The tunnel will enable year-round troop deployment and supply movement to forward areas, significantly enhancing India's operational readiness.

The progress was reviewed in a recent meeting between Gadkari and Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Brigadier B. D. Mishra, who also flagged safety concerns along the existing Zojila top stretch. He stressed the urgent need for avalanche protection measures, noting that the route will continue to be used even after the tunnel becomes operational.

The concern follows a recent avalanche incident in the area that claimed seven lives, underlining the vulnerability of the corridor.

Officials cautioned that the breakthrough will not immediately open the tunnel to traffic. Significant work remains, including installation of ventilation, safety systems and road surfacing.

The project timeline has already been revised, with full completion now expected around early 2028.

Once operational, the Zojila Tunnel is expected to serve as a lifeline for Ladakh, boosting economic activity while reinforcing India's strategic infrastructure in a region of growing geopolitical importance.

One or two cases not enough to brand a person 'goonda': HC

LUCKNOW, DHNS: The Allahabad High Court has said a person cannot be branded a "goonda" based on one or two criminal cases.

A single-judge bench of Justice Sandeep Jain gave the ruling while allowing a plea challenging proceedings against the petitioner under the UP Control of Goondas Act, 1970. "Merely on the basis of one or two criminal cases, a person cannot be branded as a 'goonda'. Such punitive action of the state causes irreparable damage to the reputation of such a person and his family," it said.

The court noted that while the Act prescribed neither a fixed number of offences nor a specific time gap between them to classify a person as a "goonda", the Supreme Court has held that such preventive laws require proof of habituality. If offences are committed with long gaps, that element may not be established, it added.

The records revealed that two criminal cases had been registered against the petitioner.

The petitioner challenged the orders of the Meerut divisional commissioner and the Additional District Magistrate, Bulandshahr, which led to proceedings under Section 3(1) of the Goondas Act.

Do those who consume beef drink pig's milk, asks Yogi

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Yogi Adityanath

Looking to underscore the cow's significance for "Sanatan Dharma" followers, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Adityanath said on Wednesday that every Hindu addressed the bovine as "Gomata" — mother cow.

"We do not refer to an elephant as 'Elephant Mother,' nor do people refer to the dogs they keep as pets in such a manner. Yet, we address the cow as 'Gomata'," said Adityanath at a "Nari Shakti Vandan" programme in Gorakhpur.

"The people, regardless of the country they belong to and whether they revere the cow or not, invariably consume cow's milk," he said.

"Do those who consume beef, for instance, drink pig's milk instead? No. Everyone, without exception, drinks cow's milk," he claimed.

Adityanath also quoted ancient scriptures to talk about the "power" of women. "Visit Mathura-Vrindavan — the land of Lord Krishna — and you will find people chanting 'Radhe-Radhe' (the name of Lord Krishna's consort)," he said.

The UP CM also referred to the Ganga river, noting that people address it as "Maa Ganga".

"The cow may belong to the animal realm, but it is akin to a deity... There exists a divine essence within it," he said.

Adityanath also referred to the women's reservation implementation Bill, which failed to muster enough numbers in the Lok Sabha, and said that there was a need to teach those who opposed it a lesson.

Thrissur Pooram fireworks called off following fatal blast; rituals scaled down

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

In view of the firework unit fatal accident that claimed 14 lives and caused severe injuries to many, the fireworks associated with the Thrissur Pooram festival have been called off.

While the sample fireworks scheduled for April 24 and the main fireworks in the early hours of April 27 have been cancelled, the exchange of decorative parasols ("Kudamattam") on April 26 will be scaled down.

It was decided at a meeting convened by the Kerala government with representatives of the Vadakkunnathan Temple and the Thiruvambady and Paramekkavu Devaswoms — the key organisers of the festival — that basic rituals associated with the Pooram would go ahead as planned, but without the firework display.

The "Kudamattam", in which elephants are paraded, will be limited to 15 minutes as both devaswoms have already made arrangements. The percussion performance on April 26 will also be held.

Ahead of the meeting chaired by state devaswom minister V N Vasavan, representatives of the Thiruvambady devaswom said the general sentiment among Pooram enthusiasts was to conduct the festival as usual since all arrangements had been made. They also said there was a belief that the deity would be pleased only if the festival was conducted.

However, the state government is said to have maintained that holding the festival as usual immediately after the tragedy could invite public ire. It was therefore decided to avoid fireworks and scale down the 'Kudamattam'.

The explosion on Tuesday occurred at the firecracker unit of the Thiruvambady Devaswom. As many as 14 people were killed and 11 were injured. The identity of several body parts recovered from the site is being ascertained through DNA tests.

In the wake of the mishap, there were strong demands from various quarters to abandon this year's festival.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

MOM, HERE'S MY CHRISTMAS LIST!
CHRISTMAS LIST?
CHRISTMAS WAS LAST MONTH!
I KNOW!
BUT SINCE I'M HOPING FOR MY OWN CAR NEXT YEAR, I THOUGHT THIS WOULD GIVE YOU TIME TO START SAVING!

Hagar The Horrible

ALL THE OTHER VILLAGE BUFFETS HAVE SHUT DOWN! WHAT'S THIS PLACE'S SECRET TO SUCCESS?
ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET
DAILY HOURS OPEN 4:00 PM CLOSE 4:15 PM

Beetle Bailey

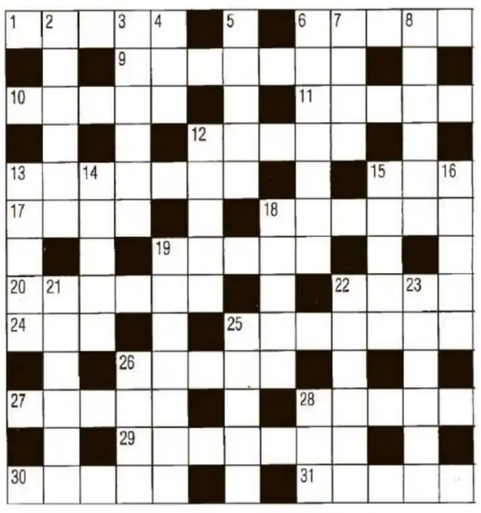
Peanuts

AS A WATCHDOG, YOU'RE GETTING MORE USELESS EVERY DAY!
I FEED YOU WELL, AND YOU HAVE A NICE HOUSE...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MORE YOU EXPECT..
HOW ABOUT ADDING A LITTLE TO THE OL' PENSION FUND?

Marvin

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MARVIN?
WAH!
HE JUST REALIZED HE LEFT HIS TOY BUNNY FLOPPET AT HIS HOUSE
WELL, THIS IS MY FAVORITE TV SHOW. CAN'T HE JUST CRY DURING THE COMMERCIALS?
WAH!

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12402



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 He could play a Croat (5)
6 They contain weeds and, with no nitrogen content, seeds (5)
9 Splinter group's noisy deeds? (7)
10 Like a good yet rough-sounding voice? (5)
11 Wine to pour unceremoniously? (5)
12 Bovine blighter? (5)
13 Entertainment in which an act may be just about nude (7)
15 Not very clever, I'm at a dead end (3)
17 At the end of the day, everything is for a friend (4)
18 Quietly elevate with encouragement (6)
19 Performs songs at the piano (5)
20 The girls sing it all together (6)
22 If he could talk, would he say "I am faithful"? (4)
24 Was bound to mean no sunshine in the southeast (3)
25 Being diplomatic makes Ian a statesman (7)
26 It's obvious I'm in the scheme (5)
27 To bat badly, getting a "pair", is not allowed (5)
28 A titanic missile (5)
29 Be quicker to pout inanely at a winner (7)
30 A blemish in the service? (5)
31 Steer badly and you may crash into them (5)

DOWN
2 A food to help you face reality? (6)
3 The right time for things to go wrong? (3,3)
4 Our boys in aircraft (3)
5 Sort of friends to have a beer with (5)
6 A London district's trees? (7)
7 Except on coming to an early finish (4)
8 As brought up, he sinned! (6)
12 Hellish clangers? (5)
13 Overtake a guy going to church (5)
14 In circulation, it's maybe at the bank (5)
15 Possibly bony figure? (5)
16 It would be wrong to cod me it's Burgundy (5)
18 The piano maybe only in support (5)
19 Sort of supplement to leave? (4-3)
21 Smoky city (6)
22 One more able to do his job? (6)
23 Open up in optics (6)
25 She passes as a poem (by Browning) (5)
26 Game in which you can get wet (4)
28 A court performance? (3)

ACROSS
1 Enquired (5)
6 Cringe (5)
9 Minor deity (7)
10 Ship's room (5)
11 Approaches (5)
12 Hollows (5)
13 Relegated (7)
15 Insect (3)
17 Employer (4)
18 Caches (6)
19 Salivate (5)
20 Fruit (6)
22 Wild pig (4)
24 Listening organ (3)
25 Protects (7)
26 Defamation (5)
27 European country (5)
28 Aviator (5)
29 Based (7)
30 Avarice (5)
31 Molars (5)

DOWN
2 Weighing device (6)
3 Reviser (6)
4 Lair (3)
5 Sacked (5)
6 Dominance (7)
7 Poems (4)
8 Mission (6)
12 Denounce (5)
13 Fool (5)
14 Gauge (5)
15 Type of gas (5)
16 Russian rulers (5)
18 Slum (5)
19 Exhausted (7)
21 Impede (6)
22 Next to (6)
23 Skilful (6)
25 River-mouth (5)
26 Parasites (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12401

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Bowers 7, Pull-over 8, AB-sent 10, CL-ear 13, He-E-p 14, Eats 15, Tosh 16, Sew 17, Co-ol 19, A-rid 21, Bound over 23, Putt 24, Ole-G 26, May 27, La-U-d 29, A-jar 32, Jest(er) 33, Slide 34, H-AB-its 35, E-vent-ful 36, Recent.
DOWN: 1, Sp-ice 2, Flee-t 3, (down)Pour 4, Braes 5, Was-p 6, Ranged 9, Be-have 11, Lay 12, Ascot 13, Hold out 15, Ton 16, Sir 18, Outlet 20, Regal 21, B-U-y 22, Old 23, Palace 25, S-ad. 28, As-set 30, J-iffy 31, R-ealm 32, J-I've 33, Sand.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Docker 7, Universe 8, Bolero 10, Horse 13, Fact 14, Iraq 15, Sort 16, Her 17, User 19, Avid 21, Make waves 23, Rote 24, Alex 26, Cup 27, Warp 29, Eden 32, Herd 33, Adage 34, Boxers 35, Obsolete 36, Prison.
DOWN: 1, Sushi 2, Tiara 3, Here 4, Debar 5, Colt 6, Earned 9, Octave 11, Ore 12, Squat 13, Forward 15, See 16, His 18, Skewer 20, Vexed 21, Mop 22, Alp 23, Rumour 25, Beg 28, Arson 30, Dazes 31, Never 32, Hens 33, Atom.

◆SU-DO-KU-6888◆

2	5			7				4
						8	2	
		1		9			3	
			3					9
4			9		8			6
6					5			
	2			5		9		
	1	4						
9			4	2			1	7

medium

SOLUTION TO 6887

3	8	6	9	4	5	7	2	1
5	9	2	7	3	1	6	4	8
4	1	7	2	6	8	5	3	9
1	3	4	5	7	2	9	8	6
8	6	5	4	1	9	2	7	3
7	2	9	6	8	3	1	5	4
2	4	3	1	9	7	8	6	5
9	5	8	3	2	6	4	1	7
6	7	1	8	5	4	3	9	2

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

									RACK 1
H4	D2	A1	E1	S1	A1	B3	Triple Word Score		
									RACK 2
C3	T1	A1	S1	U1	D2	D2	Triple Word Score		
									RACK 3
D2	N1	X8	B3	A1	O1	B3	Triple Word Score		
									RACK 4
A1	C3	B3	A1	G2	B3	E1	Triple Word Score		

PAR SCORE 245-255
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

E1	V4	I1	C3	T1	E1	D2	RACK 1 =	71
S1	A1	L1	A1	B3	L1	E1	RACK 2 =	77
A1	L1	F4	A1	L1	F4	A1	RACK 3 =	63
P3	E1	R1	I1	O1	D2	S1	RACK 4 =	70
							JUDD'S TOTAL	281

PAR SCORE 185-195

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

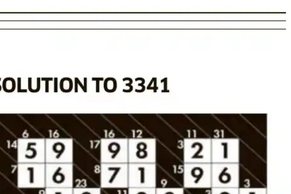
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UDEFG

NISYH

SLOCYT

MRTYOS


Sound check may be better if the guitar had strings.
Oops. I got distracted setting up the amps. New strings coming up!
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS PLUGGED IN, THE ELECTRIC GUITAR WITHOUT STRINGS WAS ---
10/13

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " ○○○○○○ - ○○○○○ " (Answers tomorrow)

Yeterday's Jumbles: TRUNK SPICY FACTOR PELVIS
Answer: When it came to building their new staircase, getting plans drawn up was the — FIRST STEP

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

HITORI-3342

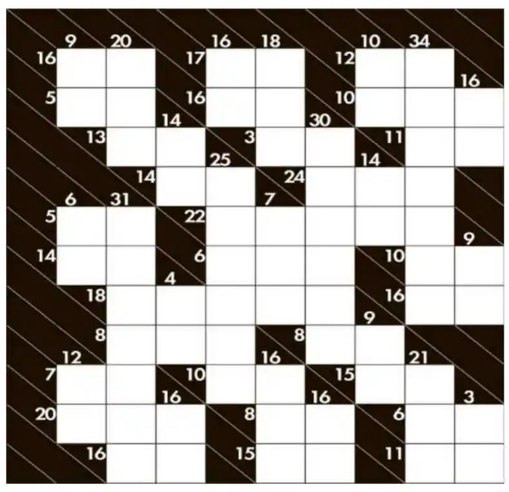
4	7	8	4	3	1	2	3
4	4	6	5	2	2	7	3
7	3	2	7	8	5	6	4
1	8	7	4	4	3	4	5
7	5	4	3	4	7	1	6
2	2	5	7	2	6	3	1
3	4	4	1	6	2	7	4
5	6	3	2	1	7	4	8

SOLUTION TO 3341

3	8	6	■	5	2	1	■
6	■	8	3	2	■	7	1
1	3	■	2	■	4	5	7
8	■	7	■	6	3	4	■
■	4	2	5	7	■	8	6
7	1	■	8	■	5	■	2
■	5	1	■	8	7	6	4
5	2	4	7	■	8	■	3

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3342



SOLUTION TO 3341

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3895

■	1				4	9		■
	■		1	8	2		6	
		■				5		
	7		■	4				5
	4			2	9		7	
			■		■			
	5	■		1		■	2	
	■		3			4	■	
■	3					8		■

SOLUTION TO 3894

8	5	7	2	4	3	6	9	1
2	1	6	8	9	5	3	4	7
4	9	3	1	7	6	8	5	2
5	7	8	4	3	2	9	1	6
3	2	4	9	6	1	7	8	5
9	6	1	5	8	7	2	3	4
1	8	9	6	2	4	5	7	3
6	3	5	7	1	9	4	2	8
7	4	2	3	5	8	1	6	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

I am not interested in any post, I don't want the chair. I only want the end of BJP government in Delhi
I had 'jhalmuri', but it seems that the TMC leaders are feeling heat of the chillies

DH DECCAN HERALD

Political Theatre

Poll vault

Canvass call

Non-Congress leaders have hit the campaign trail in West Bengal after Tamil Nadu, urging voters to support the Trinamool Congress. After campaigning in Tamil Nadu, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal is heading to West Bengal on April 26 and 27 – the last two days of canvassing for Phase 2 – to back Trinamool Congress and its chief Mamata Banerjee. Kejriwal had already campaigned for the DMK in Tamil Nadu on April 21, the last day of canvassing there. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, SP's Akhilesh Yadav, JMM's Hemant Soren and Kalpana, as well as RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, have either spoken with party chiefs or joined the campaign for the two parties in recent days. Interestingly, Rahul Gandhi did not shared the dais with DMK chief MK Stalin, despite the Congress and DMK contesting the polls together in Tamil Nadu. Are these the first signs of 'Annan-Thambi' (elder brother-younger brother) going separate ways soon?

SHEMIN JOY, New Delhi

Meet the leader

Kalita Maji
BJP
Ausgram

Kalita Maji set out for work early on March 27, only to be told her services were no longer required. "They asked me to spend time on campaigning," says the 38-year-old domestic help, who had been declared the BJP's candidate from Ausgram in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district the previous day. The other household she worked for also let her go. Kalita earned less than Rs 5,000 a month washing utensils and doing household chores in two homes.

The modest income of her and her husband, Subrata Maji, a daily-wage labourer, barely covers household expenses and their son's education.

Local BJP leaders, however, assured her she need not worry about losing her job. "Party leaders here asked me to focus on meeting people and seeking their blessings," she says.

However, this is not the first time her political journey has affected her livelihood. She had taken a break from work in 2021 when the BJP first fielded her from the Scheduled Caste-reserved Ausgram constituency. She secured 40.80% of the vote but lost to the Trinamool Congress's Abhedananda Thander, who polled 46.25%.

"This time, I will surely win," says Kalita, who is now contesting against the Trinamool Congress's Shyama Prasanna Lohar, an advocate.

BALLOT BLUES: As Tamil Nadu electors fume & fret, West Bengal voters feel the heat

Names missing: TN voters blame 'flawed' SIR

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Senthil Kumar and his two daughters flew in from Singapore to cast their votes in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, but were dejected to find their names missing from the electoral rolls.

They alleged that their names were missing despite their submitting forms during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls in the state between November 2025 and February 2026.

"I came from Singapore only to vote, and I could not," said Kumar, a voter in the Perambur Assembly segment — where TVK chief C Joseph Vijay is contesting — on Thursday. His daughters said they expected to "vote for change", but were frustrated to find their names missing from the voter list. "My wife, who lives here, submitted all the required forms, but our names are missing. We booked tickets last month only to come and vote," said Kumar.

This family was not alone. Several people across the state in general, and Chennai in particular, complained that their names were missing from rolls despite being mentioned in the final list after the completion of the SIR. "My name was on the list when I checked in February. However, at the polling station today, they said I couldn't vote because my name was missing. It is so frustrating," said a resident of Chennai's Virugambakkam locality.

Krithika Sivaswamy, another resident of Chennai, wrote on X that her name appeared in the draft rolls, but she discovered at the polling booth on Thursday that it had been deleted from the final list. "My parents' names were intact, and they were able to vote. This reflects a deeply flawed and poorly managed process," she said.

Three generations of a family show their inked fingers after casting votes at a polling station in Chennai on Thursday. PTI

Actor Trisha Krishnan after casting her vote. PTI

Kamal Haasan and Shruti Haasan at a polling booth. PTI

CM MK Stalin shows his inked finger in Chennai. PTI

TAMIL NADU Assembly Poll

Bengal witnesses clashes; 4 voters die due to heat

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The first phase of polling for the West Bengal Assembly elections on Thursday witnessed incidents of clashes between workers of rival political parties and assaults on candidates.

At least four people died after falling sick while waiting in the queue in Birbhum, Malda, Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur districts, apparently due to heat.

The Election Commission had deployed 2,407 companies of the central paramilitary force, along with armoured vehicles, in addition to local police personnel, to ensure free and fair polls in the constituencies going to polls in the first phase.

A convoy of Humayun Kabir, the leader of the Aam Janata Unnayan Party, came under attack at Naoda in Murshidabad, triggering clashes between supporters of rival parties. The central forces carried out a baton charge to bring the situation under control.

Meanwhile, BJP alleged that its leaders were targeted by the ruling TMC's workers in separate incidents. Its candidate, Suvendu Sarkar, was allegedly chased and assaulted in Kumarganj in Dakshin Dinajpur. The EC sought a report on the incident, officials said.

The party's legislator, Agnimitra Paul, a candidate in Asansol Dakshin, allegedly came under attack, with stones pelted by a mob, damaging the rear windshield of her car.

In Kharisaol, Birbhum, tensions flared after voters alleged that ballots cast for the Trinamool Congress were being registered in favour of BJP. The allegation sparked protests outside the polling station, briefly halting voting. Some of the protesters pelted stones during the unrest. The paramilitary personnel used mild force to disperse the crowd and restore order.

Labhpur, Chanchal and Murarai witnessed clashes that left several injured. In Domkal, voters allegedly faced obstruction while heading to booths, with some of them being later escorted by security personnel.

State CEO Manoj Kumar Agarwal asked district poll officers that central forces should be deployed beyond the earmarked zone if required.

BJP's Agnimitra Paul wears a helmet after a mob attack on her car in Asansol. PTI

A security personnel outside a polling station in Panskura, Purba Medinipur. PTI

BJP's Suvendu Sarkar being manhandled on his way to a booth after reports of disturbances in Dakshin Dinajpur. PTI

WEST BENGAL Assembly Poll

SC community boycotts polling

Residents of Tamil Nadu's Vengaivayal — people belonging to a Scheduled Caste community — boycotted Thursday's polling.

They demanded that the real culprits behind the contamination of an overhead tank — that supplies drinking water — with human faeces be found and punished.

The incident created a controversy after the CB-CID said Dalit residents were responsible for the incident.

Dressed to vote for the 'hero'

White shirts and beige trousers. This was supposedly the dress code that indicated which way the votes of youngsters swung this election.

Several youngsters, especially first-time voters and people below 30, wore white shirts and beige trousers — actor-politician and TVK chief Vijay's campaign outfit — to polling stations.

These voters clicked selfies in the costume and posted them on social media platforms, especially Instagram.

Harrowing time for Nandalal Bose's grandson

Suprabuddha Sen, the grandson of legendary painter Nandalal Bose, and his wife, Deepa Sen, were turned away from the polling booth at Santiniketan in Birbhum on Thursday, though the voting rights of the couple, who had been disenfranchised earlier, were restored by an appellate tribunal, reports DHNS.

The octogenarian couple could finally vote after intervention from the higher officials. What makes the ordeal of the elderly couple all the more ironic is the fact that Suprabuddha's grandfather, Nandalal Bose, had illustrated the original manuscript of the Constitution of India, which had Article 326 guaranteeing universal adult suffrage.

Suprabuddha and Deepa were among the 139 whose voting rights were restored after the 19 tribunals settled 657 cases till April 27-28 midnight.

Israton Bibi always went to the polling station with her husband Nababjan Ali. This time, she went alone because Nababjan's name was deleted.

Israton, who was anxious about her husband's fate, died after falling sick in the queue before the polling booth.

REPORTER'S DIARY

Generations collide as TN talks 'change' with Vijay

E T B SIVAPRIYAN

'Maatram' (change) seems to be the buzz sweeping Tamil Nadu.

Over 10 days, as I crisscrossed from Tamil Nadu capital Chennai to the coastal city of Thoothukudi, I heard it everywhere — from roadside soda stalls to coffee joints to walking tracks.

The arguments for and against shifted by town and region, but the refrain of 'maatram vendum' (we need change) never faded.

Vijay and his Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) have fired up first-time voters and youth across the state. Unlike the previous generation, who were guarded about their choices, Gen Z is vocal about their preferences.

Even women under 45, drawn by his screen charisma, see him as the fresh face politics needs. Supporters and sceptics are fiercely split — low on Vijay's ideology or change plank, but high on conviction.

For his supporters, it is less about party symbols than the desire to break a half-century duopoly of the DMK and AIADMK. Change is all they seek. Many acknowledge the contributions of the two parties but feel it is time for a fresh start.

Visible fatigue

The fatigue with the two parties is visible, but whether these sentiments will translate into ballots is anybody's guess.

On a sweltering afternoon in Karur, holding a soda sarbath, I asked the vendor Mary who she would vote for. Her daughter, with her toddler in arms, blurted, "My choice is Vijay."

A lifelong 'Two Leaves' voter, Mary's voice softened. "Change is not bad. Give the newcomer a chance. If he delivers, he stays; if not, he perishes."

TVK chief Vijay

About 200 km away in Coimbatore, four IT professionals debated fiercely on Race Course Road. Sabari, a die-hard Vijay fan, pushed for a fresh start. His friend Albert grilled him, "What is his vision for the state? How is he different?"

Nearby, Sam and Aakash struck a different tone. Sam criticised Vijay's Karur missteps but shrugged. "One chance? Yes, we can give him," he said.

Youngsters knew the nuances, voices differed, but all were engaged.

In Thanjavur, in the Cauvery Delta, Joe Leo, a 22-year-old college student, said he was pushing his parents to vote for Vijay. "I have watched him since childhood. He won't let us down. My mother is with me now; my father too will convert before 2030."

At the foothills of Thiruparankundram near Madurai, Mala spoke of a family pact. She and her husband would stick with established parties, but her college-going children would vote for Vijay.

Families have been having conversations about elections. I heard stories of parents and grandparents being pressed by young people at home to vote for TVK.

Loyalties linger

Old loyalties linger, though. Lakshmi, 75, born in Myanmar, said, "I will vote for my Thalaivar. Till I die, it is only 'Two Leaves'."

Then came the punch. "My granddaughters have picked Visai (Vijay)."

At a popular restaurant in Madurai, I met a young auto driver and asked if he was also voting for Vijay. He scoffed, "What we need today is ideology, not vibe."

At a coastal village, Udhaya, 33, was explicit that Vijay's aim was 2031, but he would still vote for him on April 23. "He knows he can't defeat Stalin this time. He will certainly govern the state in 2031. Let him stay in politics for five years and learn."

At a cafe in Thoothukudi, Ruby said she and her husband had always voted for the DMK, but this time they would back TVK. "My relatives will still vote for the DMK, but we won't," she told me. "Just a change, nothing else. If we can vote him in, we can vote him out as well, right?"

A senior Tamil Nadu politician on the campaign trail summed it up, "Inter-generational voting is happening now; five years on, patterns flip."

Come May 4 — disruptor, kingmaker, or king? Vijay has already changed the conversation, turning apathy into argument and cynicism into anticipation.

SIR shock for Murshidabad's Chhote Nawab

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
MURSHIDABAD (WEST BENGAL), DHNS

Syed Muhammad Reza Ali Mirza had never missed voting. He had always reached the polling station early in the morning and had often found himself among the first few to cast votes.

Not this time, though. Mirza, 82, did not turn up at the polling station at Kutubpur Naba Adarsha High School in Murshidabad on Thursday, when 152 of the 294 constituencies of West Bengal went to the polls in the first phase of voting for the Assembly elections in the state. His son, Syed Muhammad Fahim Ali Mirza, also stayed away from the polling station all day. So did nearly 200 of his relatives.

They all have been stripped of voting rights, thanks to the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls, which the Election Commission carried out just ahead of the Assembly polls in West Bengal.

Syed Muhammad Reza Ali Mirza

"I once thought I would go to the polling station to check once again if they put me back on the roll," Mirza says. "But I later dropped the plan. I would have known had they restored my right to vote."

Mirza is the 15th-generation descendant of Mir Jafar, who had betrayed Siraj-ud-Daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal, and colluded with Robert Clive to ensure the victory of the East India Company in the 1757 Battle of Plassey. He now lives with his family near Kila Nizamat, a historic fort-campus on the banks of the Bhagirathi River in Murshidabad, the historic town which had once been the seat of the Nawabs of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

The East India Company installed Mir Jafar as the Nawab of Bengal after the fall and death of Siraj-ud-Daulah. He had reigned from 1757 to 1760.

His treachery against Siraj-ud-Daulah may have etched Mir Jafar's name in the pages of history, but it also tied his descendants indelibly to the history of Murshidabad.

That's why losing voting rights hurt Mirza.

"I have been regularly casting my votes for decades. My name was on the 2002 roll, too," Mirza, fondly called Chhote Nawab in Murshidabad, says, holding up the Electoral Photo Identity Card and the Aadhaar Card issued to him.

The 2002 electoral roll was the baseline set by the EC to conduct the SIR. "They called me for a hearing. I went and submitted all my documents. But they still placed me in the 'under adjudication' category and then deleted my name," he says, adding, "They also deleted the names of my son, other members of my family, as well as a large number of my relatives."

The 'Syed' was missing in Chhote Nawab's name in the 2002 roll, but the honorific figured in the subsequent lists. Though he submitted the necessary documents to explain the mismatch, his name was struck off the list.

Mirza said the Hazarduari Palace and other historic monuments in Murshidabad had been built by his ancestors. Yet, the citizenship status of his family and other descendants of Mir Jafar has been called into question, he added.

Now, his only worry is whether his family would be allowed to bury him alongside his ancestors in Murshidabad, or if circumstances would force them to relocate elsewhere.

WB, Assam polls spark labour woes in Kerala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam and Tamil Nadu have triggered a scarcity of manpower across key sectors in Kerala — from construction and hospitality to fishing — as large numbers of migrant workers returned to their home states to cast their votes.

Industry sources said that unlike previous elections, the number of migrant workers heading back was higher this time, particularly those from West Bengal and Assam. This surge appears linked to anxieties over the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The labour shortage has, to some extent, been cushioned by the ongoing slowdown in sectors such as hotels and construction, already reeling from the West Asia crisis.

NGOs working for the welfare of migrants point out that a large share of Kerala's migrant workforce comes from West Bengal and Assam, with the majority belonging to the Muslim community.

Kerala is estimated to have at least 30 lakh migrant workers.

Benoy Peter, executive director of the Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development (CMID), an NGO engaged in migrant welfare, said that many suburban areas around Kochi, which are bustling hubs of migrant workers, now wear a deserted look.

"About 40% of Kerala's migrant workers are from West Bengal and around 30% from Assam. Many, especially those from minority communities, had serious concerns over the SIR. As a result, a large share of them left to cast their votes. Once they go to their native places, they usually take long leave, so the labour shortage may persist for some time," he said.

ELECTION EXODUS

- Kerala has around 30 lakh migrant workers
- Majority from West Bengal and Assam, many from Muslim community
- Construction, hospitality, fishing hit by migrant exodus
- Linked to anxieties over SIR and CAA

SN Raghuchandran Nair, convenor general of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI), added that unlike previous elections, there has been a mass exodus of migrants to vote.

This has slowed down the construction sector, as manual labourers are essential for tasks such as tying steel bars and preparing platforms for roof concreting, he said.

There were also unconfirmed reports that migrant workers were being pressured by political parties in their native states, often through their families, to cast votes.

In many cases, travel expenses were said to have been offered as well.

US Secretary of the Navy John Phelan in Palm Beach, Florida. REUTERS FILE

US Navy Secy John Phelan steps down abruptly

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: US Navy Secretary John Phelan is leaving his post, the Pentagon abruptly announced on Wednesday, making him the first head of a military service to depart during President Donald Trump's second term and the latest top defence leader to step down or be ousted.

No reason was given for the unexpected departure of the Navy's top civilian official, which comes as the service has imposed a blockade of Iranian ports and is targeting ships linked to Tehran worldwide during a tenuous ceasefire in the war. Another Trump loyalist is taking over as acting head of the Navy: Undersecretary Hung Cao, a 25-year Navy combat veteran who ran unsuccessful campaigns for the US Senate and House of Representatives.

Phelan's departure is the latest in a series of leadership shake-ups at the Pentagon, coming just weeks after Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth fired the Army's top uniformed officer, General Randy George. Hegseth has also dismissed several other top generals, admirals and defence leaders since taking office last year. The firings began in February 2025, when Hegseth removed military leaders, including Admiral Lisa Franchetti, the Navy's top uniformed officer, and General Jim Slife, the Air Force's second-in-command.

Trump orders Iran mine-layers sunk as Tehran tolls tankers

Hormuz tensions escalate as ceasefire strains and global markets react

TEHRAN, AFP

President Donald Trump on Thursday ordered the US Navy to destroy any Iranian boat caught laying mines in the Strait of Hormuz, increasing pressure on a fraying ceasefire as disruption from the West Asia stand-off batters the global economy.

Trump's announcement came after the US fleet boarded a vessel in the Indian Ocean transporting oil from Iran and after a senior Iranian official said Tehran had secured its first proceeds from tolls imposed on shipping through the strait.

With plans for renewed peace talks in Pakistan hanging in the balance, more fuel-hungry airlines cancelled flights, oil prices climbed once again, and the closely watched S&P Global PMI index showed eurozone business activity shrinking for the first time in 16 months.

"I have ordered the United States Navy to shoot and kill any boat, small boats though they may be, that is putting mines in the waters of the Strait of Hormuz," Trump posted.

Iran said it would keep the strait closed to all but a limited number of approved vessels for as long as the US Navy blockades its ports, brushing aside Trump's demands to reopen Hormuz and surrender its enriched uranium.

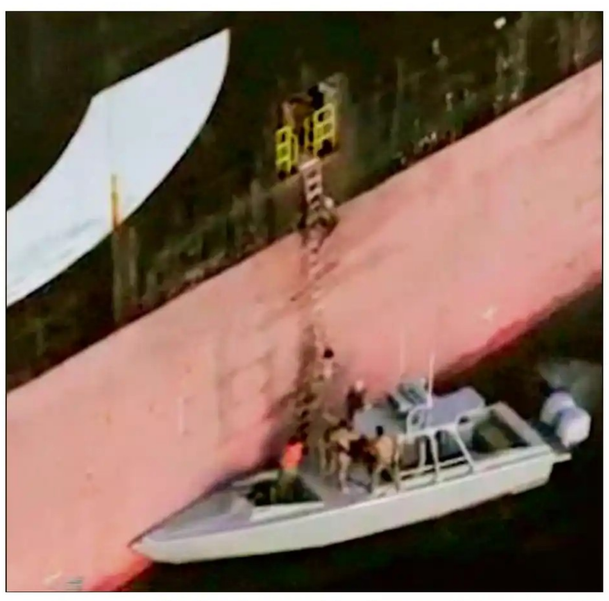
The US responded by imposing its own blockade of Iranian ports, and on Thursday the Pentagon announced on social media that US forces had "carried out a maritime interdiction and right-of-visit boarding of the sanctioned stateless vessel M/T Majestic X transporting oil from Iran, in the Indian Ocean".

The post included footage of US military personnel rappelling from helicopters onto the deck of a large tanker. The statement said the US would "continue global maritime enforcement to disrupt illicit networks and interdict vessels providing material support to Iran, wherever they operate".

While strikes across the region have largely ceased since the two-week-old truce began, the confrontation over Hormuz has continued, with both sides seeking economic leverage, even as Trump announced an indefinite ceasefire to allow space for further talks.

"A complete ceasefire only has meaning if it is not violated through a naval blockade," said Iran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who led a delegation in Pakistan.

The son of Iran's last shah, exiled Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi, waves to supporters in Berlin on Thursday. He was splattered with a red "tomato"liquid by a man who was immediately detained by police. AFP



A screen grab taken from a video footage shows Iran's Revolutionary Guards naval forces boarding a ship attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz. AFP

Iran takes seized ships to port, countries check on crew safety

LONDON/ATHENS, REUTERS: Two container ships seized by Iran near the Strait of Hormuz, with about 40 crew aboard, have been taken towards the port of Bandar Abbas, sources said on Thursday, after Tehran vowed to retaliate for the seizure of an Iranian vessel by US forces three days earlier.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps seized the ships on Wednesday — one operated by MSC, the world's largest container shipping group, and, according to three sources, the other chartered by the firm.

"Some 20 Iranians, heavily armed, stormed the ship. Sailors are under Iranian control and their movements on board are limited, but they are being treated well," a relative of one of the seafarers told Reuters.

"The ship is anchored nine nautical miles from the Iranian coast. Negotiations between MSC and Iran are ongoing, and our sailors are fine," Montenegro's minister of maritime affairs, Filip Radulovic, told state broadcaster RTCG.

Four sailors on the MSC Francesca, including its captain, are from Montenegro, he said. Two Croatians are also aboard, Croatia's foreign ministry confirmed. Full details of the crew of the Panama-flagged vessel have not been made public, but large container ships typically require a minimum crew of around 20. MSC declined to comment.

The Liberia-flagged Epaminondas has a crew of 21 members, comprising Ukrainians and Filipinos, according to the Greek coast guard. It had been bound for India.

India advises citizens against travel to Iran

DUBAI, PTI: India on Thursday advised its nationals not to travel to Iran by air or land in view of reports of the resumption of some flights between the two countries.

The Indian Embassy in Tehran, in its latest advisory, also said that "airspace restrictions and operational uncertainties due to regional tensions continue to affect international flight operations to and from Iran".

"In view of reports of the commencement of some flights between India and Iran, and in continuation of earlier advisories, Indian citizens are strongly advised not to travel to Iran, whether by air or land," the embassy said.

It urged all Indian nationals currently in Iran to leave the country through designated land border routes in coordination with the embassy.

Emergency numbers

The embassy also provided emergency contact numbers (+989128109115, +989128109109, +989128109102 and +989932179359) and an email (cons.tehran@mea.gov.in) for those in need.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday extended the ceasefire with Iran indefinitely at Pakistan's request to give Tehran's leadership more time to prepare a unified proposal to end the war. The announcement came just hours before the two-week ceasefire was set to expire. According to official data, around 9,000 Indians, including students, were in Iran when the conflict began on February 28. Nearly 1,800 have returned to India so far.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Samsung Electronics' labour union members take part in a protest against company's compensation levels in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, on Thursday. REUTERS

Samsung workers hold rally for higher bonuses amid AI boom

▶ Thousands of Samsung Electronics workers rallied on Thursday at its computer chip complex in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, demanding higher bonuses and threatening to strike as booming demand for artificial intelligence drives up memory chip profits, AP/PTI reports from Pyeongtaek (South Korea).

Holding signs and waving banners, the workers gathered at a factory compound amid a heavy police presence, shouting, "Make compensation transparent and remove maximum limits on bonuses!" Union officials said about 40,000 members participated in the protest. Police did not immediately provide a crowd estimate. The rally came hours after Samsung's crosstown rival, SK Hynix, posted an all-time high in quarterly revenue and operating profit for the January–March quarter, a jump it attributed to expanding global investments in data centres and other AI infrastructure that drove up demand for its memory chips. Samsung, which together with SK Hynix produces about two-thirds of global memory chips, forecast earlier this month that its first-quarter operating profit would reach a record 57.2 trillion won ($38.6 billion).

9 killed in attack on Pak mine

▶ Nine workers were killed when militants attacked a copper and gold mine site in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, police said on Thursday, PTI reports from Karachi.

The attack took place at the copper and gold project operated by National Resources Ltd at the Darigwan site in Chagai district on Wednesday evening, when workers were finishing their shift, a senior police official said. "It was a targeted attack, carried out at a time when workers were winding up their shift," the official said. He added that the bodies were taken to Prince Fahad Hospital in Dalbandin. The mining company confirmed the attack in a statement but did not provide details of casualties. It said security forces responded promptly and secured the area.

Russia warns European states over French N-bombers

Deployments will make host nations targets in any conflict: Moscow

REUTERS

French President Emmanuel Macron is considering plans to allow European partners to host the country's nuclear-capable aircraft on temporary deployments. FRENCH NAVY

Russia warned on Thursday that any European countries accepting deployments of French nuclear-capable strategic bombers would make themselves targets for attack by Moscow's forces in the event of a conflict.

French President Emmanuel Macron announced plans in March to expand the country's nuclear arsenal and said France may allow European partners to host its nuclear-capable aircraft on temporary deployments.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko said in an interview published on Thursday that this was part of an "uncontrolled build-up" of NATO's nuclear potential, posing a strategic threat to Russia. He stressed Moscow's concern about potential French nuclear deployments to other European countries. Macron has said Paris is discussing such arrangements with Britain, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Sweden and Denmark.

"Clearly, our military will be forced to pay close attention to this issue in the context of updating the list of priority targets in the event of a major conflict," Grushko said in an interview.

"As a result, instead of the declared French strengthening of the defence of their allies — to whom, incidentally, they offer no ironclad guarantees — the security of these countries is in fact being weakened."

Macron's initiative is part of a drive by NATO's European members to take greater responsibility for their own defence, following frequent criticism of the alliance by US President Donald Trump, and in light of his threats to take control of Greenland from NATO member Denmark.

The expiry in February of the last remaining treaty limiting the size of the Russian and US strategic nuclear arsenals has created a vacuum in global arms control, at a time when international tensions are at their highest for decades due to the wars in Ukraine and Iran.

UK, France sign new deal to curb Channel crossings

ZUYDCOOTE (FRANCE), AP/PTI: Britain and France signed on Thursday a new multimillion-euro deal aimed at reducing the number of migrants crossing the English Channel in small boats, with increased police patrols and enhanced surveillance in northern France.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood and French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez formally endorsed the three-year agreement during a joint visit to the region. "This new agreement provides our security forces with the means to continue their decisive efforts to combat dangerous Channel crossings," Nunez said.

Under the deal, the UK will provide 500 million pounds to strengthen measures in northern France, with an additional 160 million pounds depending on the success of new tactics to curb Channel crossings. If those efforts fail, the additional funding will be halted after one year, Britain's Home Office said. The deal provides for boosting the number of officers deployed on the ground from 907 at present to 1,392.

India a tough nut to crack: USTR

WASHINGTON, PTI

India is a "tough nut to crack", United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said as a delegation from New Delhi wrapped up a round of negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement with Washington.

The 12-member delegation, led by Darpan Jain, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, held talks on the finer details of the trade deal with the US team led by Brendan Lynch, Assistant USTR for South and Central Asia.

The three-day talks concluded on Wednesday. "India is a tough nut to crack... they have protected their agricultural markets for a very long time," Greer told the Committee on Ways and Means of the US Congress on Wednesday.

"As part of this deal, they want to protect much of that. There are areas, however, where I think we can find mutual agreement. DDGs (distillers dried grains) is a good example," he said.

Greer was responding to questions from lawmakers on exports of DDGs, which are used as high-protein livestock feed, soybean meal and ethanol.

The USTR said US negotiators were discussing specific issues, such as DDGs, with their Indian counterparts.

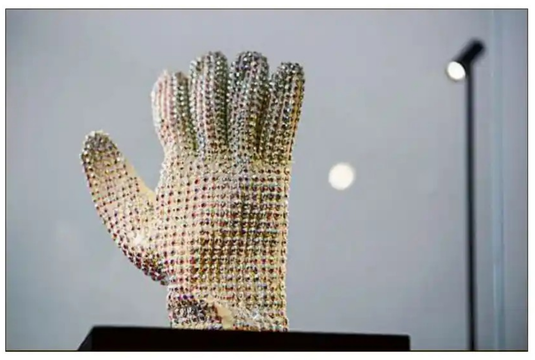
"Indian trade negotiators are in town this week, so we have been discussing these issues, including the specific commodities you mentioned, such as DDGs," Greer said.

India and the US announced the framework of the bilateral trade agreement on February 2 and released the text on February 7.

India is seeking preferential access to US markets as part of the agreement, as the two countries aim to achieve bilateral trade of $500 billion by 2030.

According to the framework, the US had agreed to reduce tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent from 50 per cent. It had removed 25 per cent tariffs imposed on Indian goods for buying Russian oil and was to cut the remaining tariffs to 18 per cent under the pact.

However, on February 20, the US Supreme Court ruled against Trump's reciprocal tariffs, which had been imposed under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).



A custom-made Swarovski crystal glove worn on stage by Michael Jackson during his "Bad" World Tour" is displayed before an auction in Neuilly-sur-Seine, near Paris on Thursday. REUTERS

Duterte can face trial, says ICC

▶ Judges at the International Criminal Court on Thursday confirmed crimes against humanity charges against former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte over deadly anti-drug crackdowns he allegedly oversaw while in office, AP/PTI reports from The Hague.

A three-judge panel found unanimously that there were "substantial grounds" to believe the former leader was responsible for dozens of murders, first as mayor of the southern Philippine city of Davao and later as president from 2016 to 2022. Duterte, 80, was arrested in the Philippines last year. He denies the charges. Judges found that the evidence shows Duterte "developed, disseminated and implemented" a policy "to neutralise alleged criminals".

Nepal prez suspends Parliament

▶ Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel on Thursday suspended the session of both houses of the Federal Parliament without convening it, PTI reports from Kathmandu.

Earlier, Paudel had summoned the parliamentary session for April 30 on the recommendation of the Cabinet on April 21. The president cited "special reasons" for suspending the session of both houses — the House of Representatives and the National Assembly — on the recommendation of the Nepal government and the Council of Ministers, Ritesh Kumar Shakya, spokesperson for the Office of the President, said. No further details were disclosed regarding the reasons behind the suspension. Senior-most Parliament member and Nepali Congress leader Arjun Narsingh K C said the government's decision was "unprecedented and surprising".

UK £1.1 bn climate fund focuses on India, other Asian nations

LONDON, PTI: British International Investment (BII) on Thursday launched a new climate initiative aimed at accelerating the energy transition, with India among the key focus economies.

The United Kingdom's development finance institution and impact investor said its new British Climate Partners (BCP) initiative, worth £1.1 billion, is designed to mobilise private capital at scale to support developing economies in Asia in accelerating progress towards net zero.

Net zero refers to the balance between greenhouse gases emitted and those removed from the atmosphere by a given entity, such as a country or an organisation.

India has been progressively raising its ambitions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and, following an update in 2022, announced its targets for 2031–35 in March 2026, marking a significant step towards achieving net zero by 2070.

BCP will focus on investments that support emissions reduction in fast-growing countries with coal-based energy systems and rising demand for clean energy, including India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and other South-East Asian economies.

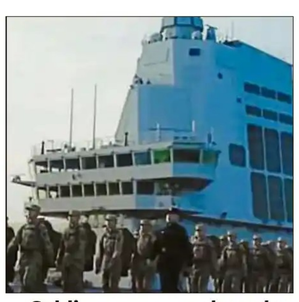
China teases new aircraft carrier in video, vows to build up islands

BEIJING, REUTERS

China teased in a video an aircraft carrier that could be its fourth, and the first using nuclear power, while vowing to further build up its islands, as it looks to boost maritime power, secure resources and bolster territorial claims.

The video issued on the eve of the 77th founding anniversary of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy featured fictional officers with names that are homophones of three commissioned aircraft carriers, the Liaoning, Shandong and Fujian.

Titled "Into the Deep", it showed a 19-year-old named "He Jian" joining the group, unleashing public speculation that it was referring to a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, as the navy recruit's name is a homophone of "nuclear vessel" in Mandarin. The three aircraft carriers now in service are all conventionally powered, carrying sequential pennant numbers 16, 17, and 18. The new recruit's age, 19, suggests "He Jian" will conform to the numbering convention.



Soldiers are seen aboard China's new nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

China's defence ministry did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment on Wednesday's video.

Beijing is spending billions of dollars to build a "bluewater navy" allowing it to project power far from its shores, a goal dating from 2012, when President Xi Jinping became leader of the ruling Communist Party.

India-UK life sciences pact signed

LONDON, PTI: A new MoU between the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms and Imperial College London has paved the way for deepening India–UK ties in the life sciences sector.

The Indo–UK Life Sciences Innovation Corridor, agreed in Bengaluru this week, will facilitate cross-border innovation collaboration by leveraging mutual biological research and entrepreneurial ecosystems. The corridor is designed to create and foster a long-term vision for greater bilateral innovation and a shared framework for exchanging talent.

Two trains that collided are seen at the Isteroedvejen area in Denmark on Thursday. At least five people were critically injured in the accident. REUTERS

Biz Bytes

FM meets bank heads over Mythos issues

NEW DELHI, PTI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday met heads of banks to discuss risks related to AI, following global concerns over Anthropic's Mythos model threatening data security of financial systems.

The meeting assumes significance in view of development of the Claude Mythos AI model by Anthropic, claiming that it has found vulnerabilities in many major operating systems.

Amazon India to invest over Rs 2,800 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: Amazon India on Thursday said it plans to invest over Rs 2,800 crore to strengthen associate safety, health, and financial wellbeing measures and to boost its operations network.

Amazon will expand both its core and quick commerce footprint to continue serving customers across India in minutes, hours, and days, the company said, announcing plans to invest over Rs 2,800 crore ($300 million).

Maruti Suzuki clocks record production

NEW DELHI, PTI: Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) on Thursday said it clocked its highest-ever annual production volume of 23.4 lakh units in FY2025-26.

The feat makes the company the only passenger vehicle manufacturer in India to achieve such record production volume as per SIAM data, MSIL said in a statement.

"This achievement is the outcome of a carefully nurtured automobile ecosystem built over four-and-a-half decades," MSIL MD and CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said.

Fractal co-founder appointed Nasscom chair

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indigenous AI firm Fractal Co-Founder and Group Chief Executive Srikanth Velamakanni has been appointed the new Chairman of Nasscom, the apex IT industry body said on Thursday.

Srikanth Velamakanni

He succeeds Sindhu Gangadharan, Managing Director of SAP Labs India, who completes a distinguished term as Chairperson in April 2026.

Warner Bros shareholders back merger

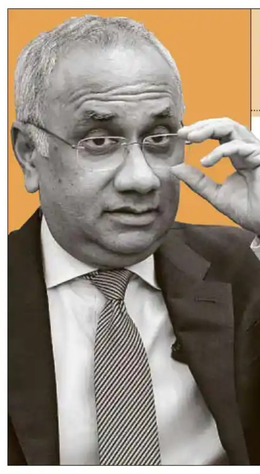
BENGALURU, REUTERS: Warner Bros Discovery shareholders on Thursday backed the company's proposed $110 billion merger with Paramount Skydance, but cast an advisory vote against executive compensation plans tied to the deal.

Under the pay packages proposed to executives, CEO David Zaslav could receive up to $887 million if the sale is completed.

Attention now turns to the regulatory authorities.

Infosys Q4 net profit rises 21% to Rs 8,501 crore

Expects FY27 revenue growth between 1.5% & 3.5% in CC terms



Earnings Highlights — Infosys

Revenue crosses $20 billion mark with growth of 3.1% in FY26 in constant currency

Net profit:	Revenue:	Final dividend:
Rs 8,501 cr (up 20.9% YoY)	Rs 46,402 cr (up 13.4% YoY)	Rs 25 per share

Operating margin: **20.9%** | Large deal TCV: **$3.2 bn** | Total employees: **3,28,594** (down 8,440 QoQ)

Guidance for FY27: Revenue growth of **1.5%-3.5%** in CC | Operating margin of **20%-22%**

"The simplicity and strength of our AI services strategy across six areas is gaining traction in the market.
SALIL PAREKH, CEO and MD, Infosys

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

IT services firm Infosys on Thursday posted a 20.87% increase in its consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 2026, at Rs 8,501 crore. This was largely in line with analysts' expectations. The company had posted Rs 7,033 crore net profit in the year-ago period.

Signalling steady momentum, the company reported a 13.38% increase in its revenue from operations for the March quarter at Rs 46,402 crore, compared to Rs 40,925 crore in Q4FY25.

For the full FY26, it posted Rs 1,78,650 crore revenue, up 9.6%, compared to FY25.

The company has guided for revenue growth of 1.5% to 3.5% in constant currency (CC) terms for FY27, and operating margin of 20% to 22%.

During the post-earnings press conference, Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh said the company is witnessing good growth in financial services (2.9% YoY CC growth), energy, utilities, resources and services (6.7%) verticals.

In terms of projects, he said net new deals are pretty large, and provide them support for growth. "We are not seeing something that has unusually changed from the last quarter to this quarter," he said.

On impact due to geopolitical uncertainties, Parekh said the current situation looks like things might stabilise. "We have smaller businesses in new geographies like Japan, where we are doing quite well," he said.

Anthropic recently released a new model Mythos that discovers vulnerabilities, and it is specialised in cybersecurity.

Talking about Mythos, the CEO said AI systems are revealing more vulnerabilities than previously thought and that it might open up opportunities for Infosys. "If we build capabilities in that, we can help our clients," he said.

"The simplicity and strength of our AI services strategy across six areas is gaining traction in the market further strengthened by strong ecosystem AI partnerships, enabling clients to get value from AI," he added.

During the press conference, Parekh also said the board is very active in looking at the company's AI work. Infosys Chairman Nandan Nilekani is very active as he has a good vision on the way AI is moving forward.

As Parekh's current term ends in March 2027, and when asked about the succession process, he declined to comment.

"FY26 was a year of disciplined execution and financial resilience reflecting in 21% adjusted operating margin and healthy free cash flow of $3.7 billion. Savings from Project Maximus enabled us to invest in strategic areas like talent, AI and sales & marketing," said CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka.

"We remain focused on margins and cash generation, as we navigate an evolving macro environment. In line with our capital allocation policy, the Board has proposed a final dividend of Rs 25 per share, which along with interim dividend and recently concluded buyback, amounts to over Rs 37,500 crore returned to shareholders for FY26," he added.

Commenting on Infosys' earnings, Shubham Rathore, Principal Analyst, Gartner, said the company reported a stable 4.1% year-on-year revenue growth in constant currency for Q4 FY26, reflecting resilient execution amidst ongoing macroeconomic uncertainties. "This steady performance is underpinned by strong enterprise demand for AI and transformation deals, aligning with Gartner's forecast that the worldwide AI services market will grow by 34.0% in 2026," he said.

Infosys to hire 20,000 freshers in FY27

Infosys plans to hire 20,000 freshers in FY27. CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka said the company hired 20,000 freshers in the previous fiscal, and will be hiring a similar number in the current fiscal.

As far as the wage hike is concerned, the CFO said the company is yet to decide. He added that whenever they do decide on the wage, they consider various factors including the industry practice and performance of the company.

Last year, the company rolled out a wage hike in two phases — the first part was effective January 2025, and the second phase was rolled out in April. Infosys' headcount declined by 8,440 in the Q4, compared to Q3. Its total headcount as of March 2026 stood at 3,28,594. However, compared to FY25, its total headcount was up over 5,000.

No proposal to increase petrol or diesel prices: Govt

There is case to up prices by Rs 25-28 per litre, says Kotak Institutional Equities

"There are some news reports suggesting a price hike of petrol and diesel. It is hereby clarified that there is no such proposal under consideration by the Government."
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS IN A POST ON X

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Thursday dismissed a report about a possible hike in petrol and diesel prices after the state assembly elections, for which the last voting is scheduled on April 29, saying there is no such proposal under consideration.

"There are some news reports suggesting a price hike of petrol and diesel. It is hereby clarified that there is no such proposal under consideration by the Government," the ministry said in a post on X.

"Such news items are designed to create fear and panic amongst the citizens and are mischievous and misleading," it added.

The ministry claimed that "India is the only country where petrol and diesel prices haven't increased in the last 4 years".

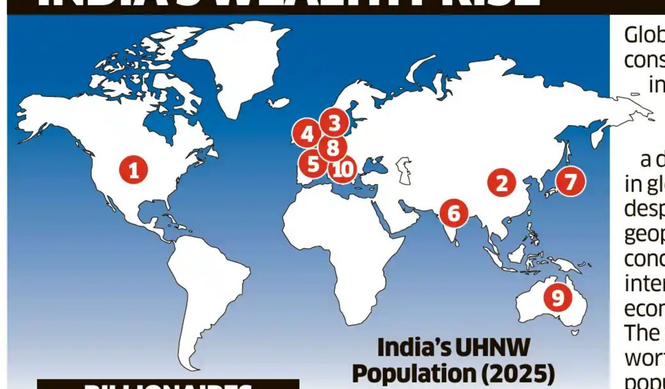
"Govt of India and Oil PSUs have taken relentless steps in order to insulate the Indian citizens from steep increases in international prices," it added.

The West Asia conflict has led to sharp increase in crude prices. As a result, retail energy prices have shot up in most of the countries. However, retail consumers in India have so far been shielded. Following the outbreak of the US-Israel-Iran conflict on February 28, prices of cooking gas, industrial diesel and premium petrol have been hiked. However, prices of normal diesel and petrol remain largely unchanged. Due to a jump in crude prices, OMCs like IOC, HPCL and BPCL are estimated to incur heavy losses on petrol and diesel supplies.

Brokerage firm Kotak Institutional Equities said in a note that diesel and petrol prices might be increased by Rs 25-28 per litre.

"We believe after the state elections (last voting on April 29), and if there is no truce in West Asia, the retail prices will be hiked. Based on an Indian basket of $120/bbl and low fixed margins ($8/15 per bbl for petrol/diesel), there is a case to raise prices by Rs 25-28/litre," it said.

INDIA'S WEALTHY RISE



Global property consultancy Knight Frank, in its landmark 20th edition of The Wealth Report 2026, reveals a dramatic acceleration in global wealth creation despite substantial geopolitical uncertainty, concerns over rising interest rates and uneven economic performance. The world's ultra high net worth individual (UHNWI) population increased to 713,626 in 2026, adding 162,191 since 2021, when the population count was at 551,435 – adding an average of 89 new UHNWIs every day in the last five years. India accounts for 2.8% of global UHNWIs in 2026, up from a little over 2% five years earlier. The country's UHNWI population is forecast to rise from 19,877 today, to 25,217 by 2031, reflecting extraordinary wealth creation across technology, industrials and capital markets.

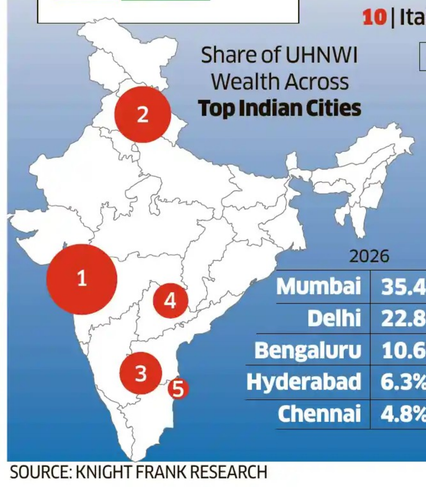
BILLIONAIRES

India's UHNW Population (2025)

1	USA	251,352
2	China	121,677
3	Germany	38,215
4	UK	27,876
5	France	21,518
6	India	19,877
7	Japan	18,914
8	Switzerland	17,692
9	Australia	16,460
10	Italy	15,433

(UHNW = $30M+)

Share of UHNWI Wealth Across **Top Indian Cities**



2026	
Mumbai	35.4%
Delhi	22.8%
Bengaluru	10.6%
Hyderabad	6.3%
Chennai	4.8%

"The expansion of India's wealth club mirrors its economic evolution as it becomes a more entrepreneurial economy maturing into one with deeper capital pools, more sophisticated financial markets and a growing cohort of globally connected founders and investors.
SHISHIR BAIJAL
International Partner, CMD, Knight Frank India

SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK RESEARCH

'Economy stable despite energy price spike'

MUMBAI, PTI

The Indian economy remains stable despite the West Asia conflict pushing energy prices and input costs higher, and supply-chain disruptions posing upside risks for inflation, according to an RBI Bulletin on Thursday.

An article published in the Reserve Bank's April Bulletin said the conflict has intensified pressures on global supply chains in March, with some easing observed in the first half of April. It added that domestic economic activity displayed resilience in many segments, with a slowdown in a few others.

"If the conflict persists and supply chains are not restored early, it may create challenges to the domestic economy in the form of higher energy costs, input cost pressures, disruption in trade flows and financial market spillovers," it said.

Though inflation remains within the tolerance band, upside risks have increased, driven by supply-side disruptions, including weather-related uncertainties, said the article on 'State of the Economy'.

Possible second-round effects with the supply shock transforming itself into a demand shock also warrant careful and continuous assessment, it added.

"The temporary two-week ceasefire between the US and Iran has, however, provided some breather to the global economy. The strong macroeconomic fundamentals should support the Indian economy to maintain its resilience to withstand such shocks," it said. The article further said the economy continues to hold its ground despite facing a major supply shock due to the conflict.

In March, available high-frequency indicators of economic activity displayed divergent trends — demand conditions remained resilient, despite some pockets of slowdown in economic momentum.

The rural economy played an important role in sustaining resilience in demand in March. Automobile sales growth was driven by strong retail demand supported by post-GST momentum.

Sensex tumbles 852 points

MUMBAI, PTI: Stock markets fell for the second consecutive day on Thursday, with the benchmark Sensex tumbling 852.49 points, as crude prices once again breached the $100 per barrel mark amid stalled US-Iran negotiations. Sustained foreign fund outflows, along with a weak trend in Asian and European equities, also unnerved investors.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 852.49 points, or 1.09%, to settle at 77,664. A total of 2,517 stocks declined, while 1,762 advanced and 170 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 205.05 points, or 0.84%, to end at 24,173.05.

LTM Q4 net rises 23% to Rs 1,392.3 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: IT major LTM on Thursday reported a 23.37% rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,392.3 crore in the January-March quarter of FY26.

The company had posted a net profit (attributable to shareholders of the company) of Rs 1,128.5 crore in the same period of the preceding fiscal.

The company's revenue from operations saw a 15.55% increase to Rs 11,291.7 crore in Q4 FY26, compared to Rs 9,771.7 crore in Q4 FY25.

On a QoQ basis, profit and revenue climbed 43.44% and 4.73%, respectively.

For the full fiscal of 2025-26, the company's profit was 9.12% higher at Rs 5,018.1 crore, while revenue from operations was up 11.31% at Rs 42,307.6 crore.

"In FY26, we accelerated our strategic shift to an AI-centric organisation with the intelligence of the BlueVerse platform and talent transformation at scale. Over the year, we unlocked new levels of efficiencies through our Fit4Future programme, won some of the largest deals in our history and strengthened our AI capabilities. With strong order intake, a healthy pipeline, and a clear strategic direction as a business creativity partner, LTM is well-placed for sustainable growth," LTM CEO and MD Venu Lambu said.

The company also announced the appointment of Vipul Chandra, currently the CFO, as Additional Director designated as Whole-time Director & CFO for a period of four years. The company's total employee count at the end of FY26 stood at 87,950, as against 84,307 in Q4 FY25.

LTM's board recommended a final dividend of Rs 53 per equity share of Re 1 each.

FINDING ALTITUDE

Singapore Airlines deepens role at Air India amid record losses

BLOOMBERG

Singapore Airlines Ltd (SIA) is deepening its operational involvement in Air India Ltd, as the carrier battles record losses and recent safety lapses draw increasing concern, according to people familiar with the matter.

SIA has moved some of its employees into Air India, placing its executives in key roles across flight operations, engineering and maintenance in recent months — areas where the Singaporean carrier has long been considered a global benchmark, said the people, who asked not to be identified as they aren't allowed to speak to the media.

While relying on its minority shareholder for operational support, Tata Group, which owns 74.9% of Air India, is focusing on commercial, human resources, finance and information technology functions, the people said.

The shift, the people said, marks a notable escalation in SIA's engagement since the deadly Dreamliner crash, moving it from a strategic partner to a far more hands-on presence inside India's flag carrier. Singapore Airlines stepped up its involvement last year with engineering and has since then expanded across other functions at Air India.

"We have been working closely with our partner Tata Sons to support Air India's transformation programme" since the Singaporean carrier became a significant minority partner in the carrier, a spokesperson for Singapore Airlines said in an emailed statement. The representative declined to comment on specific queries on Air India's finances and operations.

Spokespersons for Tata Sons Pvt. — the group's holding firm — and Air India did not comment on emailed queries.

Campbell Wilson, CEO of Air India Ltd (left), and Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Air India Ltd, hold model aircraft during an event in New Delhi. BLOOMBERG FILE PHOTO

The deeper role comes at a time when Air India's revival — one of the most ambitious turnaround efforts in global aviation — is proving far more complex and costly than the Tata Group expected when it won the bid to acquire the airline from the Indian government in 2021.

With losses swelling to roughly $2.4 billion last year, repeated regulatory lapses, and a series of external shocks disrupting operations, Singapore Airlines now has both the incentive and the urgency to step in.

Its own earnings have been hit by Air India's performance, and the Southeast Asian carrier is keen to check further deterioration of its 25.1% stake. The airline earlier said that losses from associated companies, mostly from Air India, were S$178 million ($139 million) in the December quarter but that it's "firmly committed" to working with Tata to support Air India's transformation.

The lack of visibility on when Air India can turn a profit is an issue of growing worry for Singapore Airlines, the people said.

But poor financial performance is not the only challenge facing Air India. It's contending with setbacks including aircraft flown without airworthiness certificates, European regulators flagging compliance issues, and the plane crash that forced the airline to cut services and triggered closer scrutiny of engineering practices.

Geopolitical disruptions — from the closure of Pakistani airspace to the conflict in the Middle East — have further inflated costs by forcing longer, more expensive routes at a time of surging jet fuel prices.

SIA CEO Goh Choon Phong and Tata Group Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran met in Mumbai last week to discuss a funding road map and the search for a new chief executive officer after Campbell Wilson announced his resignation, *The Economic Times* newspaper reported.

Relentless City in pole position

BURNLEY, AFP

Manchester City edged ahead of Arsenal at the top of the Premier League as a 1-0 victory at Turf Moor condemned Burnley to relegation on Wednesday.

The defeat confirmed the Clarets' third Premier League relegation in five seasons, consigning them to the Championship alongside Wolves next season.

Erling Haaland scored the only goal as Pep Guardiola's men ended the day top of the table for the first time since August, but the City boss was frustrated at his side's inability to win by a greater margin.

City go ahead of the Gunners only on goals scored, with five games left for both the title contenders.

"The chances were there. We created a lot. We made a fantastic game," said Guardiola. "We did everything after a demanding game three days ago."

However, City have on paper the tougher run-in as they aim to snatch a seventh league title in nine years.

Fresh from beating Arsenal 2-1 in what was billed as a title decider on Sunday, the visitors roared out of the blocks.

A stunning save by Martin Dubravka turned Rayan Cherki's shot onto the woodwork.

Erling Haaland

Haaland was then set free by Jeremy Doku and coolly chipped over the advancing Dubravka with just five minutes on the clock.

Chelsea sack Rosenior

Liam Rosenior was sacked as Chelsea manager after less than four months in charge on Wednesday following a run of five successive Premier League defeats, reports AFP from London.

Beaten seven times in their last eight games in all competitions, Chelsea have failed to even score while losing five consecutive league games for the first time since 1912.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Rugby's loss is cricket's gain

Versatile all-rounder Jansen is an asset to South African team and franchises

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Marco Jansen has never had second thoughts about cricket. However, before he forayed into the sport at the age of 16, the second-best Test all-rounder thought rugby was his true calling.

Portrayed as someone who could swing the ball at 150 clicks when he burst onto the scene, Jansen has transformed into a versatile all-rounder for South Africa and his franchises.

"To be honest, me and my brother (Duan), when we were younger, we wanted to be rugby players. Rugby is our main sport in South Africa. Only around the age of 16, we decided to leave rugby and pursue cricket," Jansen told in a media interaction.

With 171 international wickets and 1,445 runs, few all-rounders possess the ceiling Jansen currently does.

While he has put up his name as one of the best all-rounders across formats, there have been times when Jansen "did not think it was possible" to play cricket as a profession, let alone play for South Africa.

"I didn't even think it was possible (cricket as a career). I would think to myself that other players are so much better than what I am.

"Only after school when I got into university, I got an opportunity to move to Bloemfontein and got my first franchise contract. But things didn't change there. Later on, when I made my debut for the Proteas and I did okay, was I adamant on trying to make this a fruitful career."

Jansen, who was picked by Punjab Kings for Rs 7 crore, has been a vital cog in their impressive showing since 2025.

Having been picked for Rs 7 crore in the 2025 IPL auction, Marco Jansen has given a massive boost to Punjab Kings' fast bowling unit.

Having picked 21 wickets in 20 games for PBKS, Jansen has prioritised adaptability over rigidity, opting for different approaches in accordance with the game's and team's needs.

"I'm used to taking the first or the second over, but I also know I have other attributes. Coming in the third or fourth over, or even the fifth is definitely a different approach that I had to take. But I do have the skills to adapt to whatever situation and do a job for the team," Jansen added.

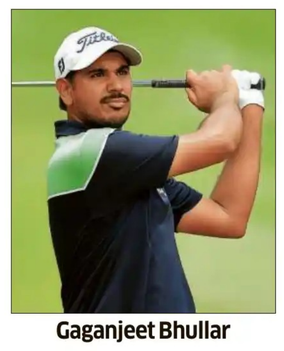
While experimentation and variations have become the buzzwords in T20 cricket, hitting the hard length and doing it time and time again, remains Jansen's biggest strength.

"It does not surprise me because Josh Hazlewood also does the same thing. People ask how he hits the length and picks up wickets. We're tall bowlers and we hit different lengths than others. And there is something different we offer. Earlier, I was trying to bowl similar to what others were bowling and not realising what I bring to the table is different. I think the last year or so I've felt comfortable in my own skin."

"I've felt comfortable in doing what I feel is best to help me stay consistent and perform on a consistent basis. Obviously you're going to get your off days but the goal is just to try and stay consistent."

Jansen also heaped massive praise on skipper Shreyas Iyer's leadership qualities.

"Shreyas as a captain is definitely up there, if not on top. He's a pleasure to work with. He knows what he's doing. He knows what he wants from the players. He's also up for discussions and is always welcoming. It's never a case of it feels like a dictatorship. He makes everyone feel valued and welcomed."



Gaganjeet Bhullar

Bhullar goes bogey free for T-6

SINGAPORE, PTI: Gaganjeet Bhullar's steady 4-under bogey-free round and Shiv Kapur's terrific hole-in-one were the major talking points of the opening day for the Indian contingent here at Singapore Open on Thursday.

The USD 2 million International Series tournament saw Thailand's Ekpharit Wu and Japan's Jeongwoo Ham set the early pace during the first round, carding 7-under 64s at the par-71 Serapong course at Sentosa Golf Club.

Wu shot a blemish-free round while Ham combined eight birdies with a lone bogey to lead by two strokes.

Among the other Indians, Rashid Khan, Shaurya Bhattacharya and Ajeetesh Sandhu shot rounds of 1-under to be among the top-30 in the leaderboard, while Karandeep Kochhar was even par.

Barca edge closer to La Liga title

BARCELONA, AFP: Barcelona moved a step closer to winning La Liga with a tight 1-0 victory over Celta Vigo on Wednesday but lost their goalscorer Lamine Yamal to an apparent hamstring injury.

The teenage Spain star won and converted a penalty to clinch a narrow triumph but hurt himself as he took it and was replaced before half-time.

Joao Cancelo also went off injured for a Barca team who moved nine points clear of Real Madrid at the top of the table with six matches remaining, including a Clasico on May 10.

Elsewhere, Atletico Madrid fell to a 3-2 defeat at lowly Elche, their seventh loss in their last eight matches across all competitions.

Results: Barcelona: 1 (Yamal 40th pen) bt Celta Vigo: 0; Elche: 3 (Affengruber 18th, Silva 33rd pen, 75th) bt Atletico Madrid: 2 (Gonzalez 10th, 36th).

Prachi, Vanshika strike gold at junior World Cup

CAIRO, PTI: India's Prachi Gaikwad struck gold in the women's 50m rifle 3-positions, while Vanshika Chaudhary and Sejal Kamble secured the top two podium spots in the women's 10m air pistol final as the country continued its dominant run in the medal standings at the ISSF Junior World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) here on Thursday.

The two gold medals on Thursday, following Shiva Narwal's triumph in the men's 10m air pistol on the opening day, took India's gold tally to three and its overall count to 11 medals, including five silver and three bronze medals.

Trump envoy: Replace Iran with Italy

PARIS, AFP: An envoy to US President Donald Trump has asked world football's governing body FIFA to replace Iran with Italy at the World Cup, according to the Financial Times.

US special envoy Paolo Zampolli told the FT it would be a "dream" to see four-time World Cup winners Italy at the finals in the United States, Mexico and Canada despite the fact they lost in a qualification playoff last month.

Andrea stars in Pass FC Sparks victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Andrea Elizabeth netted a hat-trick as Pass FC Sparks thrashed Technico FF 4-0 in the KSFA A Division Women's League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Thursday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Result: Pass FC Sparks: 4 (Andrea Elizabeth 5th, 21st, 44th, Pooja D 64th) bt Technico FF: 0.

VANI VILAS HOSPITAL
(Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute)
Fort. K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.
Phone & Fax: 080-26707174
E-mail: vanivilas.bmcri@gmail.com Website: vanivilashospital.org

No: VVH/MEQ/01/2026-27 Dated: 22-04-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 for the following subjects.

Sl. No.	Institute	Description	Last Date	Tender Approx Amount	EMD Amount
1	Vani Vilas Hospital	BMCRI/2026-27/ IND0044 Procurement of IVF Equipments	04-05-2026	58,31,065/-	1,15,000/-
2		BMCRI/2026-27/ SE0023 Consideration of Air Conditioners to AMC	07-05-2026	21,00,000/-	42,000/-

The tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Those tenders which are not submitted with EMD will be rejected. For further details contact **Medical Superintendent, Vani Vilas Hospital, Bengaluru.**

Sd/-
Medical Superintendent
Vani Vilas Hospital, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/327/Adverto/2026-27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, Zone-2, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th 'B' Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru - 560040.

No: BWCC/EE(GRN)/TN/GL/02/2025-26 Date: 23-04-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders on lumpsum basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, Zone-2, BWCC, Bengaluru from the registered Contractors of BWCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Consultancy Services for Project Management Consultancy for the Work of Additional Works to Community Hall in Ward No. 141, Nagarabhavi and Other Development Works to Ward No. 139, Mudalapalya in Govindarajanagara Constituency. **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 19,000/-**
2	Consultancy Services for Project Management Consultancy for the Work of Improvements of Park and Playground in Ward No. 139, Mudalapalya and Development of Parks in Govindarajanagara Constituency. **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 19,000/-**
3	Consultancy Services for Project Management Consultancy for the Work of Comprehensive Development of Roads, Drains and Other allied Infrastructure Works in Nayandahalli in Ward No. 143, Govindarajanagara Constituency. **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 200.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) The Tender Documents can be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting is **27-04-2026 at 15.30 Hours. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **30-04-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **02-05-2026 after 11.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals: **Will be intimated through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Govindarajanagara Division, Zone-2, BWCC.

Government of Karnataka
HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT
Sri Venugopala Krishna Swamy Temples and Group Temples
Executive Officers Office, Malleswaram, Bangalore.
Phone No: 080-23313339 Email: samuhadevalya12@gmail.com

NO:E.O.A/CR-31/2025-26 Date:24.04.2026

Brief Tender Notification (Call-2) (Through e-Procurement)

Bangalore City Malleswaram, Sri Venugopal Krishna Swamy and Group of Temples, the following tenders will be published through e-procurement. Tenderers submitting tenders are requested to contact **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** or Temple **Phone No: 080-23313339** for more information.

Name of the Tender	FILE No.	Date of Submission of Tender through Online		Date of Opening of Tender through Online
		Since	Up to	
Bangalore City Malleswaram, Sri.Venugopala Krishna Swamy and Group Temples regarding outsourcing of required posts.	E.O.A/ CR-31/ 2025-26	24.04.2026	03.05.2026	05.05.2026

Sd/-
Executive Officer
Sri Venugopala Krishna Swamy & Group of Temples, Malleswaram, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/323/SSC/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ.
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಸಂ:: 04/2026–2027 ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.04.2026

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW-4ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.05.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 21.04.2026 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 14.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.05.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 6 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 1 (ಒಂದು), ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.300.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ:– (1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. (2) ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾ.ಇಂ..ಲೋ.ಇ..ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸಸಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಪಿ&ಎ/065/2026–27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2026-27/205 Dated:22/04/2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-4 on E-procurement portal for 06 no of works pertaining to Koppal And Raichur district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned works varies from **Rs. 25.00 to 300.00 Lakhs** . The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through E-procurement portal only. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **24-04-2026**. Last date & time for receipt of tender is **06-05-2026** time 16.00 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on **30-04-2026** 11.00 Hours at Division office koppal. date & time for opening of technical bid **08-05-2026** time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid **11-05-2026** time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/46/KSMCA/2026-27

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC/DD(Tariff)/TBCB/2025-26/1904 Date: 23.04.2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission had published the following draft regulations in the Karnataka Gazette on 02.04.2026, inviting comments /views / suggestions / objections, if any, on the draft Regulations from the stake holders / interested persons and had also hosted the same on the Commission's Website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in.**

(1) Draft KERC (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for grant of Transmission License and other related matters in respect of intra-State Transmission Projects selected through Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding) Regulations, 2026

AND

(2) Draft KERC (Fee) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2026

The Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the matter at **3.00 PM on 30th April 2026 in the 1st floor, Court Hall of the Commission, #16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthnagara, Bengaluru-560052.** Interested persons/ stakeholders/ public may participate in the "Public Hearing" and make their oral/written submissions before the Commission.

Sd/- Secretary
For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

DIPR/CP/YC/320/2026-27

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ
ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೇಟಗಳ್ಳಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ –571311
ಕಛೇರಿ : 0821-2517555, ಇಮೇಲ್: mysoreds@.com

ಸಂ: ಜಿಆ&ಸಾರೋಆಮೈ/ಸರಬ/ರಾಅ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ರೋಗಿಗಳ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ **ಔಷಧಿ/ಸರ್ಜಿಕಲ್/ಇತರೆ ವಸ್ತುಗಳು ಸರಬರಾಜಿಗಾಗಿ** ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೌಲ್ಯ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ **ರೂ. 53.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ.**

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 18.04.2026 2)** ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.04.2026 3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ . 4)** ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **24.04.2026 ರಂದು ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 5)** ಸ್ಯಾಂಪಲ್‌ಗಳ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **01.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ 5)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.05.2026 7)** ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 07.05.2026 8)** ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ: **ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು. 9)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 53.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು 10)** EMD amount 2% of the Tender Amount: **ರೂ. 1,06,000/–(ಒಂದು ಲಕ್ಷದ ಆರು ಸಾವಿರ ಮಾತ್ರ).** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– **ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು**
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ

DIPR/MYS/93/SA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
VIJAYANAGARA AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. O.P.J. Centre, Ballari–Sandur by pass Road, Toranagallu–583 123, Ballari Dist.
e-mail : commissionervada@gmail.com

No:VADA/Engg/Byluvaddigeri/lakeDev/03/2026-27 Date: 23.04.2026

Tender Notification

Tenders have been invited from eligible agencies through the KPPP Portal in two-Cover format for the development of Byluvaddigeri Lake under the Lake Development Charge of Vijayanagara Area Development Authority for the year 2026-27 Indent No. (VADA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT2).

NAME OF THE WORK: IMPROVEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION WORK TO BYLUVADGIRE LAKE NEAR BYLUVADGIRE VILLAGE, HOSPET TALUK, VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT. (VADA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT2). **PROJECT COST IN LAKHS:** 280.00. **AMOUNT IN TENDER IN LAKH (WITHOUT GST):** 231.58. **EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT IN LAKH:** 3.47

Instructions:• Tender Form Fee: As per kppp Portal.
• Full details of the tender can be obtained only on the official website kppp Portal (http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) (Urban Development Department). For More Details Contact: 8395295618.
• The Tender Inviting Authority has full power to accept or reject the tender as per para 14 and 15 of KTTP Act 1999 without giving any information.
• Date for downloading tender documents through the Government's online portal: 23.04.2026 onwards.
• Last date for submission of tenders through the kppp portal: 25.05.2026 up to 4.00 PM.
• Tender opening date: 26.05.2026 at 11.00 am, if missed the next day will be notified.

Sd/-Commissioner, Vijaynagara Area Development Authority. Tornagallu.

DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/79

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"When I come to the ground, I leave my personal ego in the hotel room. I just think about contributing in whatever way the team wants from me.

RAVINDRA JADEJA
RR ALL-ROUNDER

Laura Wolvaardt

Ton-up Wolvaardt seals series for South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, PTI: India scored their highest-ever total against South Africa but still suffered a nine-wicket thrashing at the hands of the home team with skipper Laura Wolvaardt leading the way with a splendid ton in the third women's T20 International against South Africa here on Wednesday.

South Africa thus took an unassailable 3-0 lead to clinch the five-match series. The remaining two WT20Is in Johannesburg and Benoni is now rendered inconsequential.

Put in to bat, India made 192 for 4 -- their highest ever against South Africa -- with captain Harmanpreet Kaur and opener Shafali Verma scoring 66 and 64 respectively.

But, South Africa captain Wolvaardt slammed 115 off just 53 balls while her opening partner Sune Luus struck 64 not out off 42 deliveries against a hapless Indian bowlers to easily chase down the target of 193 with 21 balls to spare and take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series. South Africa reached 193 for 1 in 16.3 overs.

Brief scores: India: 192/4 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 37, Shafali Verma 64, Harmanpreet Kaur 66; Nonkululeko Mlaba 2-31) lt to South Africa: 193/1 in 16.3 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 115, Sune Luus 64 n.o.). **Result:** SA won by 9 wickets. **PoM:** Laura Wolvaardt. **Series:** SA lead the 5-match series 3-0. **Next match:** April 25 (Johannesburg).

Solid Bangla clinch series

CHATTOGRAM (BANGLADESH), AFP: Najmul Hossain Shanto scored a century and Mustafizur Rahman claimed 5-43 as Bangladesh beat New Zealand by 55 runs in the third one-day international to clinch the series 2-1 on Thursday.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 265/8 in 50 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 105, Litton Das 76, Towhid Hridoy 33 n.o.; William O'Rourke 3-32, Ben Lister 2-62, Jayden Lennox 2-50) bt New Zealand: 210 all out in 44.5 overs (Nick Kelly 59, Muhammad Abbas 25, Dean Foxcroft 75; Mustafizur Rahman 5-43, Nahid Rana 2-37, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 2-36).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Gujarat Titans (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Sunderland vs Nottingham Forest (**12:30 am, Saturday**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

ISL: NorthEast United vs Goa (**5 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

Samson storm sinks Mumbai

Hosein claims 4/17 as Chennai Super Kings trounce hosts by 103 runs

MUMBAI, PTI

Akeal Hosein (third from right) was the pick of the bowlers for CSK, bagging 4/17 against Mumbai Indians. PTI

Opener Sanju Samson struck his second IPL century of the season to set up a thumping 103-run win for Chennai Super Kings in a battle of heavyweights against Mumbai Indians on Thursday.

Put in to bat first, five-time champions Chennai rode on Samson's unbeaten 101 off 54 balls to post 207-6 at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

Chennai's West Indies spinner Akeal Hosein then returned impressive figures of 4-17 to bundle out Mumbai, who have also won the IPL five times, for 104 in 19 overs.

The colossal winning margin boosted Chennai's net run-rate and took them to fifth spot in the 10-team table. Mumbai slipped to eighth with five defeats from seven outings.

Chennai started their innings briskly, courtesy of skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad's 14-ball 22 before he fell to Afghanistan spinner A.M. Ghazanfar in the third over.

Samson then teed off with three fours and one six off Mumbai skipper Hardik Pandya but kept losing partners at the other end, including Dewald Brevis for 21.

Undeterred, the 31-year-old took on the opposition attack, hitting 10 fours and six maximums across his well-crafted knock.

Mumbai bowlers struck regular blows as Ghazanfar and left-arm quick Ashwani Kumar took two wickets each before Samson's final assault took Chennai past 200.

Samson reached his fifth hundred in the T20 tournament with a four on the final ball of the innings and raised his bat to acknowledge the applause from the fans and the dugout.

In reply, Mumbai lost three wickets, including South African Quinton de Kock for seven, in the first three overs and slipped to 11-3.

Impact substitute Hosein, a left-arm spinner, took two of the three.

Suryakumar Yadav, who made 35, and Tilak Varma attempted to rebuild in a partnership of 73 but the asking rate kept rising with some tidy bowling by Chennai.

The wily Hosein returned to break the stand as he got Varma to drag a delivery onto his stumps and out for 37.

Then, Noor Ahmad struck on successive balls to send back Pandya, for one, and Sherfane Rutherford for a duck, before Shardul Thakur avoided the hat-trick. Hosein dismissed Suryakumar for his fourth and, with that, the batting fizzled out.

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: Sanju Samson (not out) 101, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Varma b Ghazanfar 22, Sarfaraz Khan b Santner 14, Shivam Dube b Ghazanfar 5, Dewald Brevis c Bumrah b Ashwani 21, Kartik Sharma c Santner b Bumrah 18, Jamie Overton c Dhir b Ashwani 15, Akeal Hosein (not out) 2. Extras: (LB-1, NB-3, W-5) 9. **TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 20 overs) 207.**

Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-72, 3-91, 4-122, 5-165, 6-181.

Bowling: Bumrah 4-0-31-1, Hardik 2-0-38-0, Ghazanfar 4-0-25-2, Santner 4-0-44-1, Ashwani Kumar 4-0-37-2, Krish Bhagat 2-0-31-0.

MUMBAI INDIANS: Quinton de Kock b Choudhary 7, Danish Malewar c Samson b Hosein 0, Naman Dhir b Hosein 0, Suryakumar Yadav c Khan b Hosein 36, Tilak Varma b Hosein 37, Hardik Pandya c Choudhary b Ahmad 1, Sherfane Rutherford c Kamboj b Ahmad 0, Shardul Thakur c Brevis b Kamboj 6, Krish Bhagat c Gurjapneet b Overton 7, Ashwani Kumar (not out) 1, Jasprit Bumrah c Samson b Gurjapneet 2. Extras: (LB-1, W-6) 7. **TOTAL (all out in 19 overs) 104.**

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-7, 3-11, 4-84, 5-85, 6-85, 7-87, 8-100, 9-100.

Bowling: Akeal Hosein 4-1-17-4, Mukesh Choudhary 4-0-31-1, Anshul Kamboj 3-0-10-1, Noor Ahmad 4-0-24-2, Jamie Overton 2-0-14-1, Gurjapneet Singh 2-0-7-1.

Result: CSK won by 103 runs. **PoM:** Sanju Samson.

Chennai Super Kings' Sanju Samson celebrates after scoring a century against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday. PTI

Langer compares Ekana surface to WACA

LUCKNOW, PTI: Lucknow Super Giants head coach Justin Langer compared the Ekana pitch to the famed Perth track of yesteryears, admitting that the home team has been unable to adapt to the pace and bounce on offer on it.

LSG have struggled on their home surface, losing all three matches here. They have gone down by six and seven wickets to Delhi Capitals and Gujarat Titans respectively, before suffering a 40-run defeat to Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday.

"The pitch here is very different than in most of India. It's a brilliant cricket pitch. You see pace and bounce, and we just haven't quite adjusted to it," Langer said at the post-match press conference.

"I thought we'd started off, we'd been bowling quite well in it. We bowled well in the first game, but we're just not adjusting to the extra pace and bounce. We saw that we've been out to the short ball a number of times, our batters. We see a lot of the wickets in India where the ball doesn't bounce very high. This is like playing at the WACA. There's real pace and bounce.You're seeing some really interesting cricket being played here," he added.

Despite boasting a formidable batting line-up featuring skipper Rishabh Pant, Australia's Mitchell Marsh, South Africa T20 captain Aiden Markram and the flamboyant Nicholas Pooran, LSG have struggled to put up competitive totals at home, managing 141, 164 for 8 and 119 in three games.

Challengers look to bounce back

Pitch will be in focus as hosts hope for favourable conditions

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Devdutt Padikkal will be eyeing a big knock when they take on Gujarat Titans at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday. DH PHOTO/ RANJU P

LIVE 7:30 PM

The Chinnaswamy pitch has been a reliable friend of batters for a large part of the Indian Premier League. It has, however, come into sharp focus on occasions for behaving quite contrary to popular image.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's underwhelming display with the bat in the last match against Delhi Capitals has brought the centre piece into conversation again. Their power hitters, who have taken this IPL by storm, struggled to get going on what appeared to be a sluggish surface. Capitals' batters didn't have things easy either, eventually edging to a six-wicket win with just one ball remaining and handing RCB their first home loss of the season in four games.

As the Rajat Patidar-led side braces for its final league match at home against Gujarat Titans on Friday, it would be hoping to get a surface that suits their strength, which is batting. Bengaluru has seen a sharp rise in temperature in the last fortnight, and that obviously has had its impact on pitch preparation, especially for the last match which was a day match. The neutral curators' final say in the pitch preparation hasn't helped the hosts' cause. With Friday's match scheduled for a 7.30 pm start, the belief is it would aid the batters more, and if it turns out that way, it would be hard for any attack to stop the RCB marauders.

Barring the game against Rajasthan Royals in Guwahati, where he appeared to have been affected by physical exhaustion, Virat Kohli has added a refreshing sense of urgency to his approach. After six matches, his average strike rate is over 157, which is acceptable so long as he provides that solidity at the other end, allowing bigger hitters in the side to free their arms. His opening partner Phil Salt's ability to inflict damage is indisputable, and he can do it with some consistency.

RCB faithful aren't unfamiliar with Rajat Patidar's big-hitting game, but the skipper has taken his game to another level this season. With 230 runs, he is just 17 runs behind Kohli among RCB's top run-makers, but his strike rate of 212.96 has added a different dynamic to the team. The right-hander has hit a whopping 22 sixes, the second highest behind Abhishek Sharma's 27.

In between comes Devdutt Padikkal, team's designated No. 3, who has been in great nick, delightfully lacing his meaningful stints in the middle with left-hander's natural elegance. Tim David isn't exactly known for his style, but who cares so long as he can put the white sphere where gravity fails. And let's not forget that Jitesh Sharma, Krunal Pandya and Romario Shepherd are yet to fire to their potential with the bat.

Could it prompt them to switch to Jacob Duffy and leave out Shepherd, whose limited opportunities with the bat are unlikely to be helped by a bowling so inviting that he himself might prefer to face?

On reflection, this seems to be the only noticeable weakness in an otherwise strong RCB setup as they aim to reward their home fans with a win before heading out for the rest of their matches, including two at their second designated home in Raipur.

Gujarat, who are also coming on the back of a big loss to Mumbai Indians, would be keen to bounce back. While bowling has blown hot and cold, the Shubman Gill-led side would be hoping its middle-order comes to the party.

We exert no influence with regard to surface: Bobat

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Mo Bobat

While conceding that the Chinnaswamy pitch no longer always conformed to a batter-friendly image, Mo Bobat, RCB's Director of Cricket, encouraged his players to adapt their games according to the conditions.

"We've got a BCCI curator here who's leading on the pitch preparation, so we don't know who might have influence on it," said Bobat here on Thursday when asked if RCB no longer have home advantage. "It's a home venue in terms of city and stadium, but by surface we exert no influence. Yeah, it's been a fairly different wicket, I suppose, over the last two and a half years that I've been involved.

"We feel like we've got a decent grasp of it. It isn't always the same. For us, it doesn't change the way we prepare for games, though. We always say to the players that part of their job as cricketers is to assess the conditions in front of them and adapt whatever is required. We might prepare with a certain view, but the reality is they're out in the middle and they've got to assess what's in front of them and they've got to adapt their games accordingly," he offered.

RCB, who are placed third on the table, have maintained their position in the top half with the league almost halfway through. Bobat said he is pleased with where he finds the team.

"We'd obviously rather not have the two defeats, but it's pleasing to have four wins," he noted. "The most pleasing thing is in most games we've played good cricket. You've probably heard me speak a few times now that the way we play our cricket is the most important thing. On the whole, we've played the way we want to play and that's how I tend to judge what we do. If you do that consistently, the results take care of themselves. That's probably been the most encouraging thing."

RCB have played with an ultra-aggressive mindset in the tournament so far, refusing to take the foot off the pedal even when they have lost wickets by the bundle. Bobat emphasised the need to maintain the approach. "Ultimately, I want us to play aggressive cricket -- aggressive with the bat and aggressive with the ball," he said. "I want us to be brave, brave when those moments really require bravery when the game is on the line or things get a little bit difficult. If we're aggressive and brave through every phase, I think we'll play the way we want to play."

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	6	5	0	1	11	1.420
Rajasthan Royals	7	5	2	0	10	0.790
Royal Challengers	6	4	2	0	8	1.171
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	4	3	0	8	0.820
Chennai Super Kings	7	3	4	0	6	0.118
Delhi Capitals	6	3	3	0	6	-0.130
Gujarat Titans	6	3	3	0	6	-0.821
Mumbai Indians	7	2	5	0	4	-0.736
Lucknow Super Giants	7	2	5	0	4	-1.277
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	1	5	1	3	-0.879

Starc likely to be available for Delhi's game on May 1

SYDNEY, PTI: Mitchell Starc **(in pic)** has been cleared by Cricket Australia to feature in the Indian Premier League with the pacer expected to be available for Delhi Capitals' match against Rajasthan Royals on May 1.

The left-arm quick has been sidelined since January due to elbow and shoulder niggles. He played a key role across all five Ashes Tests, earning the Player of the Series honour, before featuring in five Big Bash League games for Sydney Sixers later that month.

"Starc is expected to build up his workloads on the ground in India and is on track to make his debut for the 2026 season in Delhi's May 1 match against Rajasthan Royals," Cricket.com.au reported.

The 36-year-old's absence from the early phase of the IPL had sparked debate over the commitment of overseas players, prompting Starc to address the issue on social media and clarify what he termed "heavily misinformed opinions".

"Despite the opinions and views of certain individuals with their platforms in and through the Indian media, I'm currently rehabbing and managing an injury in my shoulder and elbow of which I didn't know the extent of during the Australian summer," Starc had posted on Instagram.

Starc was DC's leading pace bowler last season, claiming 14 wickets in 11 matches.

David raring to make a bigger impact this season

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

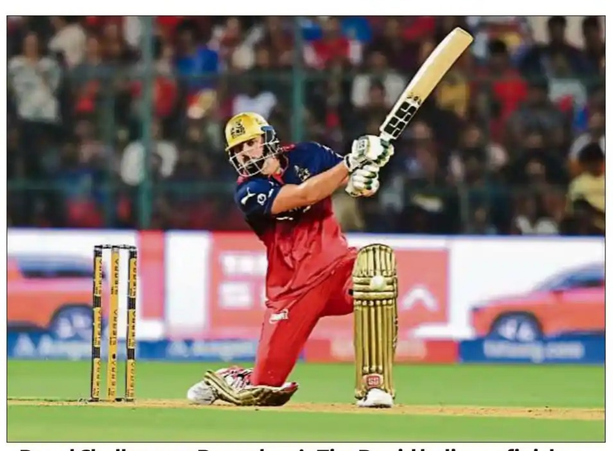
Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Tim David has kicked off from where he left last season. In fact, the 6'5" Australian, who was an integral member in the franchise winning their maiden IPL crown in 2025 with his blistering hits as a finisher, has upped the ante.

Last season, the giant collected 187 runs in 12 innings at a strike rate of 185.15. This time around, promoted to No. 5, the Singapore-born Perth resident has already scored 173 runs in 6 innings at a scorching strike rate of 203.53.

The 30-year-old David, who started his IPL career with RCB in 2021 before making a mark at Mumbai Indians for three seasons and returning to the defending champions last year for Rs 3 crore, said he's trying to make a bigger impact following his batting promotion.

"So as a middle-overs batter, you basically have to problem solve, so we're very lucky that we have a brilliant top-order and they're very consistent and put us in a good position in game. So a lot of the time I'm going and putting the finishing pieces on that or trying my best," said David in an interaction.

"It's myself along with Romario (Shepherd) and Jitesh (Sharma) (as finishers), so that takes a lot of pressure off myself that I'm the only one there to try and do it. My role is, I guess, trying to get us to as good a score as possible, and sometimes you have to work with the bowlers when you're batting low down. I'm getting the chance to bat a little bit higher this year and try and make a bigger impact on the game."



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Tim David believes finishers have to take risks to be successful. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

The role of a finisher is one of the most difficult jobs in T20 cricket. Very often, they are expected to tee off from the get-go, unlike top-order batters who have the luxury of getting their eye in and then stepping on the accelerator. Also, they don't have the advantage of Power Play like top-order batters. So how does David train himself for such challenges?

"The role we play in, you have to take risks, so you can't be super consistent all the time. It's really difficult. Fortunately, I've played my whole career in the middle order, so I understand certain risks and I've found success in doing different things, so you try and replicate that at times. But certainly in practice, you have to get your volume of balls in because you don't get to bat all the time in the matches.

"So it's practicing your basics, making sure you, you know, some really basic throws from coaches and working on making sure your technical structure is sound. And then, obviously, you need to have the power for hitting. So a lot of practicing that and working on different ways you want to take the balls down. But then when you get into a game, it's trying to do it within your strength," added David.

David, an avid golfer, said he's looking forward to scripting more wins for RCB. "You know I've come to India for three months and I want to have a good season, I want to be successful with RCB, I want my team to win.

"So if you go home after that feeling deflated after not doing it, so the biggest part about batting in the middle or where I bat is you have to not judge yourself too harshly. You have to kind of roll with the punches because games don't always go how you want them to and then when you have good days you try and have fun."

Athletes eye glory at U-20 national meet in Tumakuru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The three-day National Junior (U-20) Athletics Federation competition is all set to kick off on Friday at the Mahatma Gandhi Stadium in Tumakuru.

Upcoming young athletes will be keen on showcasing their best as the meet serves as a qualifying event for the Asian U-20 Athletics Championships scheduled to be held in Hong Kong next month.

The fastest female athlete, with 37 women sprinters vying for top honours in the 100m dash, will be decided on the opening day. Women's pole vault and discus throw are the other medal events.

The competition has a total of 1,059 competitors and the action-packed track & field weekend concludes on Sunday.

Aadhithiya to meet Gandharv in AITA final

BENGALURU, DHNS: Third seed SM Aadhithiya set up a title clash with Gandharv G at the TNR Memorial AITA Rs. 1 lakh prize money tennis tournament played at the Topspin Tennis Academy here on Thursday.

Aadhithiya advanced to the final after second seed Deepak A retired midway through the second set (6-1, 3-0). Qualifier Gandharv defeated Vishal Vasudev 6-0, 4-6, 6-4 in the other semifinal.

Results (semifinals, prefix denotes seedings): Singles: Men: 3-SM Aadhithiya bt 2-Deepak A 6-1, 3-0 (retd); Gandhrav G bt Vishal Vasudev 6-0, 4-6, 6-4.
Women: Hridayeshi bt Saiyette Varadkar 6-3, 6-0; Shreenithi Chowdhury bt Sonicka Jagdeesh 6-3, 6-0.

ATHLETICS

'Don't think about numbers'

Croat high-jumper feels right technique is key for success

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Indian women's high jump is probably witnessing its best-ever talent as young Pooja Singh has emerged as a bright prospect. The teenager is deemed the favourite to break the 13-year-old national record of 1.92m.

While she has come close to breaching the mark since last season, becoming Asian Champion in the process, it is clear now that it has turned into her biggest challenge, perhaps a mental block as well.

And who better to seek advice than Blanka Vlasic, a two-time World Champion and Olympic medallist who spent years chasing the world record mark of 2.10m following her personal best of 2.08.

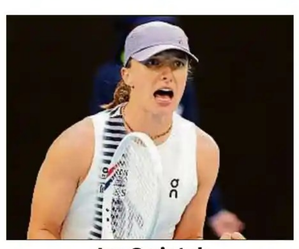
Speaking to select media outlets here as the brand ambassador for the 18th edition of the TCS World 10K, the 42-year-old Vlasic shared her thoughts on varied topics, including how athletes often limit their own abilities by giving too much importance to a mark. Excerpts...

Two-time world champion high jumper Blanka Vlasic at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru event on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Indian women's national record is stuck at 1.92m for a while now, and to a point where it feels like a mental block. What would you suggest to overcome it?
Sometimes, it can be a real mental block. It can be that you think about that height and then you overrate it. I think for me sometimes that was the 2.10. Maybe I was putting it higher in my head than it was. And definitely, mental barriers can be something that can prevent you from moving forward. But at one point, everything will come together. And once, if you break it one time, the next time will be easier. For high jumpers, technique is everything. Always try to perfect. So many times I come to the competition tired and feeling like not myself. But with the right technique, I would always manage to pull out the good results.

While you came mighty close to breaching the world record of 2.10m, was that your dream height?
My dream height was always 2.10. And then my dad and I discussed between us, I asked him, 'What do you think dad, how high I can actually jump?' And he said, 2.15. And then I was like, 'yeah, okay!' I mean, to be clear, I always like to aim high. And when you see that you can jump 2.06, 2.07, 2.08, that you have world records in your body, and you're still like 24, 25, then you think, actually, bigger heights are possible.

What really goes behind creating a champion? Can you take us from the start of your run-up to those heights? What happens?
Well, everything that you see on TV is actually carefully practised in training. So, the thing about technique in any technical event is automatism. So, you need to repeat it many, many times in training. I had training sessions with more than 30 jumps per session, where I would work on all these small things. For people, what they see is, oh, she runs and then she jumps. It's not that simple. High jump as an event has its particular rules, such as how you need to keep your body, how you need to run the curve, what rhythm you should start with, what rhythm you should finish, how to position yourself, how to keep your shoulders. So, it's all about a lot of many small details that you practise throughout the year. So, you can execute them perfectly, as perfectly as possible, during competition.


Iga Swiatek

Ruthless Swiatek eases past Snigur in 61 minutes

MADRID, AFP: Iga Swiatek made quick work of her opening test in Madrid, breezing past Daria Snigur 6-1, 6-2 at the Caja Magica on Thursday.

The Polish fourth seed needed just 61 minutes to move past Snigur, who was coming off the first tour-level main draw victory of her career on clay over Daria Kasatkina.

The Ukrainian qualifier saved four match points against Kasatkina on Wednesday, and secured the win with a 15-13 scoreline.

Sabalenka through

Aryna Sabalenka shook off some rust to post her first victory of the season on clay and extend her winning streak to 13 matches in Madrid.

The world No. 1 committed 26 unforced errors in her 7-5, 6-3 win over American Peyton Stearns in the second round in the Spanish capital.

Indian men eye Thailand encore

Women shuttlers face tough test in Uber Cup

HORSENS, PTI

Banking on a settled core and bolstered by the rise of Ayush Shetty, the Indian men's team will aim to reclaim the title, while the women's side looks to punch above its weight at the BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals beginning here on Friday.

India will open their campaign against Canada on Friday, followed by matches against Australia on Monday (April 27) and China on Wednesday (April 29).

Four years ago, India did something unprecedented, annexing the Thomas Cup crown, considered the world team championship of badminton, putting the sport firmly on the radar of the youth in this country.

A bunch of bravehearts, led by Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy, defied all odds as they tamed Denmark, Malaysia and Indonesia en route to that epic moment in Indian badminton history.

That week witnessed Srikanth emerge as the invincible leader, Prannoy the decider specialist, and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty the gentle giants.

Two years later, India's title defence ended against China in the quarterfinals.

Cut to 2026, there is renewed hope as the Indian men, with the same core and the exuberance of rising star Ayush, are eyeing a repeat.

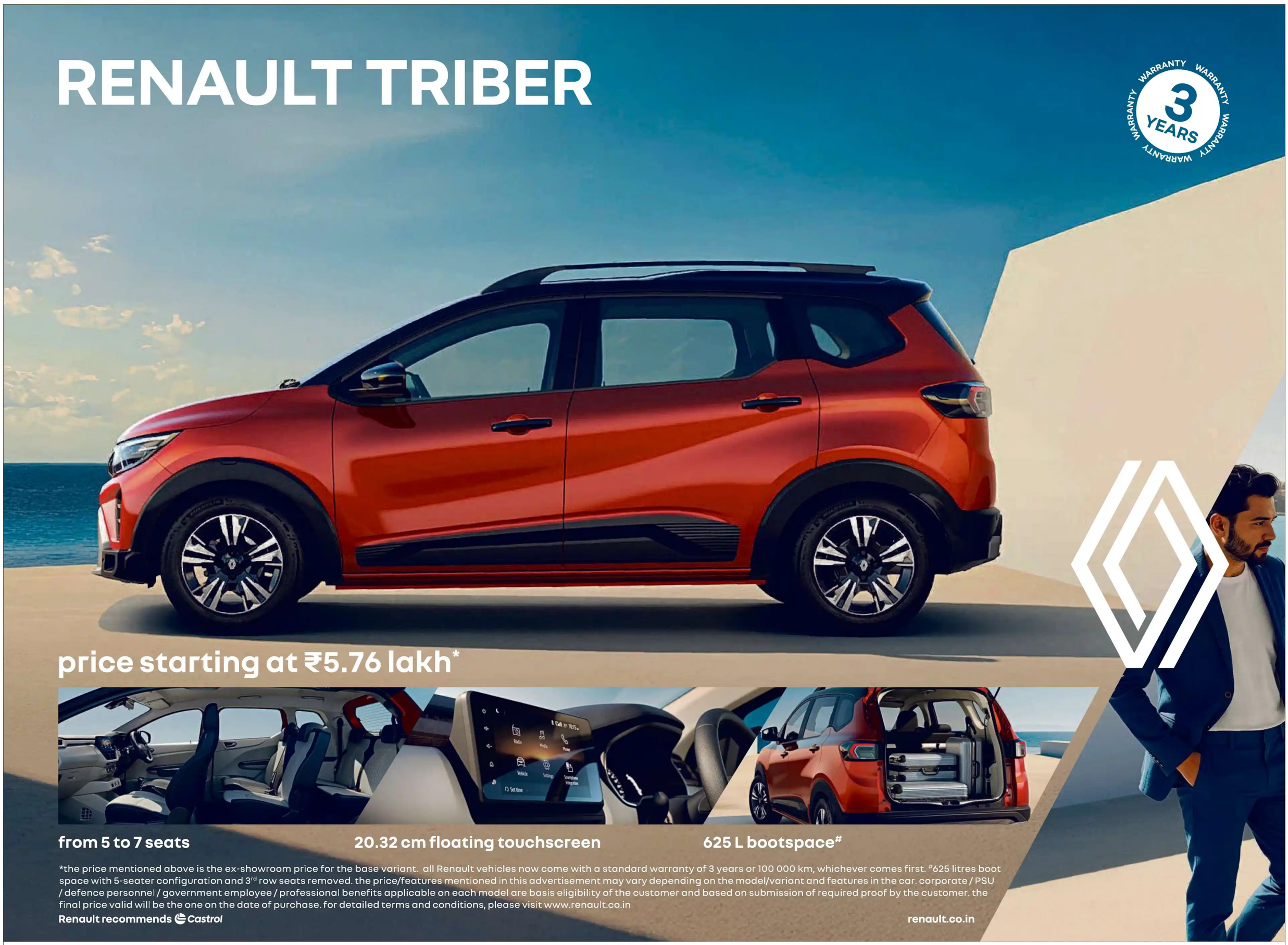
Ayush is coming off a strong show at the Badminton Asia Championships, where he became the first Indian to reach the final after 61 years, while Lakshya Sen recorded a second runner-up finish at the All England Championships.

Both the Indians produced some stunning performances against top players such as Li Shi Feng and Jonatan Christie.

In the Uber Cup, the Indian women's team, led by double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, will face Denmark on Friday (April 24), Ukraine on Saturday (April 25), and China on Monday (April 27).

India won bronze medals in the 2014 and 2016 editions, but it will be an uphill battle this time, especially without the services of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly, who is nursing an ankle injury.

India will be banking big on Ayush Shetty's impressive recent form when they kick off their Thomas Cup campaign against Canada on Friday. AFP


RENAULT TRIBER
WARRANTY 3 YEARS WARRANTY
price starting at ₹5.76 lakh*
from 5 to 7 seats
20.32 cm floating touchscreen
625 L bootspace#
*the price mentioned above is the ex-showroom price for the base variant. all Renault vehicles now come with a standard warranty of 3 years or 100 000 km, whichever comes first. #625 litres boot space with 5-seater configuration and 3rd row seats removed. the price/features mentioned in this advertisement may vary depending on the model/variant and features in the car. corporate / PSU / defence personnel / government employee / professional benefits applicable on each model are basis eligibility of the customer and based on submission of required proof by the customer. the final price valid will be the one on the date of purchase. for detailed terms and conditions, please visit www.renault.co.in
Renault recommends Castrol
renault.co.in
SHOWROOMS: KARNATAKA: BENGALURU: RENAULT **BANNERGHATTA ROAD** Ph: 9289220872, RENAULT **MYSORE ROAD** Ph: 8527240549, RENAULT **SILK BOARD** Ph: 8527240654, RENAULT **WHITEFIELD** Ph: 8527240685, RENAULT **JP NAGAR** Ph: 8527240626, RENAULT **KALYAN NAGAR** Ph: 8527236137 & 8722866664, RENAULT **SARJAPURA** Ph: 8448481374, 8746811000 & 8496915111, RENAULT **YELAHANKA** Ph: 8527234592, RENAULT **YESWANTHPUR** Ph: 9311832962. RENAULT **TUMKUR** Ph: 8527234251.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com